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DEATHS.

At Melbourne, on the 8th July last, MARY ANNE, the dearly loved wife of Major WILLI M. STOKES, and mother of F. W. STOKES, of this town. Deeply lamented.

At the Wesleyan Mission Hospital, Hankow, on the 2nd August, 1898, EDWIN GOBBINS, of the Wesleyan Mission Society, of dysentery; aged 57.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 15th July arrived, per M. M. steamer *Inlus*, on the 14th August (30 days); and the English mail of the 22nd July arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Sutlej*, on the 19th August (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Mgr. V. Garnier, Roman Catholic Bishop, died at Shanghai on the 14th August.

A Seoul despatch of the 3rd August, translated by the *Kobe Chronicle*, states that the Korean Council of State has passed a resolution, brought forward at the recommendation of the Finance Department, to adopt the gold standard.

The *Echo de Chine* explains that the institution at the back of the Belgian Syndicate which has contracted to build the Great Western Railway of China is the Société Générale pour Favoriser l'Industrie Nationale, of Brussels, a Bank with a capital of 350,000,000 francs (£14,000,000 sterling) with agencies in all the great financial markets of Europe. The Russo-Chinese Bank is merely acting as its agent in China, and the Syndicate, according to the *Echo de Chine*, is no more Russian than it would have been English if the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank had been appointed agent to the Belgian bank.

Sir Arthur Chichester, the eighth baronet, died at Yonlston, near Barnstaple, on July 13th, in his 77th year. He is succeeded in the baronetcy by Captain Edward Chichester, of H.M.S. *Immortalité*, at present stationed at Manila.

There was a rumour in native official and mercantile circles in this port yesterday, says the *N. C. Daily News* of the 10th August, to the effect that, as an outcome of the recent Shensi riots the British Government has demanded of the Imperial Government the opening of the districts of Siangtan in Hunan, Chianghsia (Wuchang) in Hupeh, and Hukou (Poyang Lake) in Kiangsi province to foreign trade.

The *N. C. Daily News* recently stated on the authority of a Peking correspondent that in Sir Claude Macdonald's opinion the time was not opportune for pushing the question of Settlement Extension. Our contemporary now learns on the highest authority that this statement is quite erroneous. The opinion of the British Minister on this question is the very reverse of that attributed to him by the correspondent.

Reuter's telegrams received during the past week indicate strained relations between Great Britain and Russia, and that the position is regarded as serious is proved by the orders received by the men-of-war on the station. The *Bayleux* has for some little time past been lying in Hongkong harbour waiting for her relief crew, which was coming out in the *Blenheim*, but orders have now been received that the paying off is to be postponed and that the *Blenheim*, which arrived on Thursday, instead of turning her crew over to the *Bayleux* and returning with the time expired crew of the latter is to hold herself in readiness for immediate service. The *Powerful* arrived on the 13th August and was under orders to proceed to Batavia to represent Great Britain at the celebrations to be held in connection with the coronation of the Queen of Holland, but her orders have also been countermanded and she remains at Hongkong.

Bubonic plague has broken out at Nhatrang, Annam. The official statement is to the effect that only a few isolated cases have occurred, but the *Avenir du Tonkin* declares its disbelief in the official statement and gives reasons for supposing that an epidemic of serious proportions is raging. The place is cut off from communication, no vessels being allowed to call there, and letters have been intercepted, so that it is impossible to ascertain the real state of affairs independently. Our contemporary opines that the disease has originated entirely from "the microbe factory maintained at Nhatrang at the public expense under the name of Dr. Yersin's Institute." The native assistants, our contemporary goes on to say, have no doubt become careless; they manufactured microbes in large quantity, and have themselves been the first to fall victims to their own carelessness or ignorance in carrying out their work, and from them the disease has been contracted by others. "The epidemic thus commenced is bound to make large ravages, for we know that the preventive serum, the discovery of which was too soon announced, has still to be found. Who would have thought that the Nhatrang Institute, established and maintained to protect us from the plague, would have had as its final result the introduction of this contagious disease into Indo-China?"

Native advices from Kiangsi are to the effect that a French Commission, consisting of three engineers and an officer, were lately surveying several districts in Kiangsi, and that they will recommence work in Kiangsi and Kwangtung, after a trip to Japan. If the natives are to be believed, the French have been promised a concession by the Chinese Government to construct a railway between Hankow and Canton. The *China Gazette*, from which we take the above, doubts the authenticity of the report. There are, however, certain circumstances which to our mind lend probability to the supposition that there may be something in the statements made, after certain qualifications have been made. If the French have not actually been promised a concession for a railway from Hankow to Canton they may possibly be working with the object of securing such a concession, not, perhaps, with the idea of actually constructing the line, but of keeping other people from doing so.

La Semaine Coloniale (Saigon) says that Admiral de Beaumont, not much liking the administration and surveillance of the territory surrounding the bay of Kwangchauwan, has expressed his wish to hand the duty over to the Government of Indo-China. The Governor-General has decided that it is to be made a military territory, and Commandant Lassalle seems to have been appointed to undertake its direction. This officer left at once for Kwangchauwan to see what should be done. France, continues our contemporary, "will have nothing but unpleasantness in this region, for it is peopled only by old pirates whom China has never been able to suppress. It is estimated that for the occupation of this scrap of territory a relatively important garrison will be required and that there will notwithstanding be much to do before the country is delimited and pacified. China knew very well what she was doing when she ceded us the territory, and our diplomacy has once again been deceived."

Manila was occupied by the United States forces on the 13th August. The news was brought to Hongkong by the German cruiser *Kaiserin Augusta* on the 15th, but was not allowed to leak out until the following day, the cruiser having brought no mails except for the German and Spanish Consuls. The consequence was that the first news of the event reached London from Berlin and the news agencies wired to their correspondents in Hongkong for an explanation. On the 17th the American despatch boat *Zafiro* arrived with full details. It appeared the demand for surrender was made in due form, but was not acceded to, and the attack took place on the 13th. The resistance offered by the Spaniards was, however, little more than nominal, and the Americans on their side were careful in the bombardment to direct their fire only on the defences, so that but little damage has been done in the city. The fight on shore lasted about two hours. The American loss was about half-a-dozen; the Spanish loss would be somewhat larger, though not heavy, as they simply fell back as the Americans advanced until they reached the walled city, when the white flag was hoisted. Governor-General Augustin, who had resigned his position some days before, came over to Hongkong by the *Kaiserin Augusta* and went on to Europe by the German mail.

RUSSIA'S POLICY IN CHINA.

(Daily Press, 19th August.)

The semi-official Russian statement telegraphed out by Reuter is of equal interest and importance. It is of interest as coming from an inspired source, and it is important as bearing out what we have on many occasions asserted, that if England only grips the Muscovite nettle boldly it will prove innocuous and harmless. The statement is to the effect that Russia is solely anxious to secure her recently gained advantages in the Far East, that she contemplates no fresh acquisitions, and does not desire to injure the economic interests of Great Britain. No doubt Russia's first and most pressing anxiety is to see the Trans-Siberian Railway completed, and, of course, carried to an unfrozen port. This port she has now obtained, for Port Arthur and not Vladivostok will be the real Pacific terminus of the Great Russian highway. It will take some years before even Russia, with all her vast resources, will be able to bring her Siberian lines all into working order, and when this is satisfactorily completed, it is not improbable that the main item of the Russian dream will have been realised. When, however, Russia says "she contemplates no fresh acquisition" we must take the announcement with a grain of salt. It is possible that for the moment her hands are sufficiently full, and she thinks that she needs all her energies for the development of the territory she has leased or otherwise acquired from China in Manchuria. But the time will come, we doubt not, when she will find it desirable to ask for the remainder of the Manchurian heritage of the Ta-tsing dynasty. Just at the moment it might not be easy of assimilation, but when the railway is in full working order it will only seem the natural complement of the territory lately secured. It would also be folly to ignore the fact that, at no distant day, Russia will wish to absorb Kashgaria, part of which (Kuldja) she was compelled to disgorge through the energetic action of CHANG CHIH-TUNG, when he denounced the Treaty made by CHANG How, which agreement had left the province in the hands of the CZAR.

The assertion that Russia does not desire to injure the economic interests of Great Britain must be taken for what it is worth. No doubt the Russian Government have no wish, so long as England does not worry them, and so long as English interests do not clash with those of Russia, to cause injury to British commercial interests. But the moment the two cease to appear compatible, that moment Russia would be ready to scheme for her own advantage and to adopt any measures that would seem to promise to further her ends. Consideration for British interests, we may be sure, will not weigh with Russia when in the pursuit of her own carefully laid plans, which she pursues so patiently, pertinaciously, and sagaciously, it is evident that other considerations must prevail. It would be folly, therefore, to be led off our straight course by any red herring that the CZAR'S Ministers may choose to trail over the scent. We may give M. MURAVIEFF credit for all the good intentions in the world, we may meet him with the friendliest language, and we may respond most freely to all his assurances of good will—for indeed we have much good will for, and not a little sympathy with, Russia in her efforts to extend her commerce—but we should never make the mistake of relying on them. Even treaty stipulations, as we have seen in recent years, are not too sacred to be broken by Muscovite hands; how much less, then, can

we place any faith in mere promises from St. Petersburg. The incidents in the negotiations with regard to Port Arthur and Talienwan would, were other proof wanting, be sufficient warning of the untrustworthiness of Russian assurances. It is well to be on good terms with all our neighbours, and it is most satisfactory when we can trust them, but if we are unable to believe implicitly in their pledges then it is necessary to be prepared to rely on ourselves alone. We might have been more than willing to work with Russia before our most recent evidence of her unscrupulousness; we must now be content to go cautiously, watching her with suspicion, though with no unfriendly intentions.

The publication of this semi-official statement by the Russian Government is, however, a useful sign of the feeling in St. Petersburg. There is, as we have always believed, no desire on the part of Russia to become involved in war, especially with a first-class Power. Russia has invariably preferred—and rightly so—to seek the attainment of her designs by peaceful means rather than by appeal to the sword. War is costly and it is not always safe. Russia is not at the moment prepared, either financially or in other ways, to go to war for what she believes can be secured with equal certainty by waiting. She has of late years seen her opportunity in China, and, backed by her very useful ally, has taken it. The necessity had long been foreseen for an outlet for the Trans-Siberian Railway in Manchuria, and China's extremity became Russia's opportunity. Having obtained permission to make the railway through Manchuria so readily, Russia thought, and not unnaturally, that the time had arrived to make a bold stroke for a port, and it was made boldly. The result was a success beyond, probably, what M. MURAVIEFF had dared to hope for. But beyond this point the CZAR'S Government are evidently not prepared to go—at present. This is what is meant by the statement just given to the world. Russia has no quarrel with Great Britain, has no wish to interfere with her trade or commercial enterprise in China. It is not in any sense a backing down, but it is an acknowledgment that she is not prepared to fight for any point over which she may disagree with Great Britain. The statement may no doubt be construed even in a larger sense. It probably means that whatever Great Britain may demand from China, however much Russia may secretly disapprove, yet she will not actively oppose it. Which means, too, that if France chooses to cry out against concessions to Great Britain she may do so as loudly as she chooses, but Russia will not lift a hand to help to make that outcry effective.

FRANCE AND THE CANTON-KOWLOON RAILWAY.

(Daily Press, 13th August.)

The twisting of the lion's tail goes merrily on. The latest report, disseminated by the Shanghai correspondent of the *Times*, is to the effect that the French Minister has protested to the Tsungli Yamen against the negotiations for constructing a railway from Kowloon to Canton by Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., alleging that Kwangtung is in the French sphere. If there be any truth in the report it is to be hoped that it will be made very clear to France that it is not within her sphere to interfere with legitimate British enterprise either in Kwangtung or elsewhere and that if she makes herself obnoxious disagreeable consequences may ensue. The effrontery of the alleged

protest is almost too transcendent for belief, but very strange things are at present happening in the Far East. Fortunately Lord SALISBURY seems fully alive to the necessity of protecting and supporting British enterprise. Reuter's telegram published to-day informs us that instructions to resist preferential treatment of foreign subjects in trade were sent to Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD in March and that renewed particular instructions in reference to railway concessions were sent on the 13th July. These "particular instructions" were no doubt dictated by the dispute concerning the Newchwang line, but may also have had some bearing on the question of the Canton and Kowloon line. It is evident now, since the question of international spheres has been raised, that the latter line must be made forthwith, in order to effectively assert the rights of Great Britain and of this colony. The idea of seeing Hongkong cut off from land communication with Canton except by some problematical French railway of the distant future would be too intolerable to be entertained for a moment. In support of the immediate construction of a British line, if there were any difficulty in raising the necessary capital on the basis of an ordinary commercial undertaking, both Great Britain and the colony of Hongkong might fairly be asked to contribute towards it, either in the way of a guarantee of interest or by subscribing part of the capital. As a matter of fact, however, we believe the undertaking has already a sufficient financial backing, and if it is placed on the open market as a public company no doubt the shares will be subscribed for many times over. It is to be hoped, however, that the line will not stop at Canton. Not only should it be extended northwards to connect with the northern railway system, but also westward to Nanning, where it might perhaps meet the French line, if the latter ever materialises.

France's protests, however, if any have been made, will perhaps evaporate as readily as Russia's in reference to the Newchwang line. It was stated the other day that Russia had threatened that if the Newchwang contract with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank were carried out she might require the province of Ili or Kuldja as compensation. Thereupon the Chinese Government were informed that Great Britain would support them against any Power committing an act of aggression on China for permitting British subjects to construct or support railways or any public works. The telegram published to-day states that China has expressed her gratitude for Great Britain's support, but adds that no aggression has been threatened. It does not follow that as a matter of fact threats have not been held out. It is not an uncommon thing in police courts for a complainant, either under the influence of terrorism or of substantial inducement, to withdraw the allegations made at the commencement of the case. China may be in a somewhat similar position and may have reason to think that she had better not bear tales against her powerful northern neighbour, lest it be remembered against her in the distant future. The statements as to the domineering attitude assumed by Mr. PAVLOFF at Peking have of late been too frequent and categorical to admit of the belief that they are altogether without foundation. It is possible the threats may not have been reduced to writing and that even in the spoken words they may have been so wrapped up as to admit of their being explained

away, but certain it is that, whatever the means employed, Mr. PAVLOFF had succeeded in establishing a complete "funk" amongst the mandarins at Peking. Whether the promises of British support have sufficed to remove that unfortunate condition is, we fear, doubtful, but whatever the feelings of the Peking Government may be, and however our rivals may rage about it, British enterprise in China must have free course.

KWANGCHAUWAN AND FRENCH DESIGNS IN SOUTH CHINA.

(Daily Press, 17th August.)

It is now nearly two months ago that we reproduced from a Tonkin contemporary a statement to the effect that the French cruiser *Duguay Trouin* had got into Kwangchauwan on a high tide and was unable to get out again. According to latest reports the vessel is still there, though whether really bar-bound or not we would not like to say. It is evident that there is a strong party amongst the French that takes an unfavourable view of the new possession, and possibly the members of that party may spread exaggerated reports concerning its alleged disadvantages, just as there were found amongst English experts, or alleged experts, some who declared that the larger vessels of our own fleet would be unable to enter Weihaiwei. It would seem, however, from the persistency of the reports with reference to Kwangchauwan, that they must really rest on some foundation of fact. In the case of Weihaiwei the report that large vessels could not safely negotiate the channel was promptly falsified by the whole fleet going in, but in the case of Kwangchauwan not only is it stated that the *Duguay Trouin* is still bar-bound there, but one of the latest issues of the *Courrier de Saigon* received states that the *Vauban* has for three months past been unsuccessfully trying to get in, and this in the south-west monsoon, when the tides are more favourable than in the north-west monsoon.

We can hardly suppose that the French, when they negotiated the lease of the bay, were entirely ignorant of its characteristics. What, then, was their object in taking it, if, as alleged, it is of little or no value as a naval station? The answer is not far to seek. France wanted to have a *point d'appui* from which she might advance hinterland claims and so establish a sphere of interest, with the object of excluding British trade and enterprise. It has been suggested—unofficially, it is true, but perhaps not without official cognisance—that she should also occupy the island of St. John's, which would bring her still nearer to Hongkong and to the region which finds its commercial outlet at Hongkong. Now, St. John's has no harbour at all for ocean going vessels, and if its occupation were decided upon it could only be with the object of making it another point from which to exercise political influence on the mainland. The territorial disputes between France and Great Britain in Africa have been happily settled, but it looks now as though the seeds of a similar series of disputes were being sown in South China. It is said France is bidding for the Canton and Hankow Railway and that she objects to an English Company constructing the Canton and Kowloon line. Possibly it might be easier to arrive at an amicable arrangement with France now, while the dispute is in its incipient stage, than when it has assumed a more acute form. We would not be disposed to pay any very high

price to buy our rival off, but Great Britain might perhaps not unreasonably undertake not to make any railways upon the Tonkin boundary line or to compete with French enterprise in that particular region, provided that France on her part undertook to keep clear of the Kowloon hinterland, which must be considered to extend as far as Canton.

THE HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANK AND THE GOLD STANDARD.

(Daily Press, 15th August.)

The meeting of shareholders of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank on Saturday was, as was to be expected in view of the magnificent report presented, of a very harmonious character, and the Chairman's statement that the prosperous and sound position in which the Bank now stands reflects the greatest credit upon the far-sighted and conscientious management of the Chief Manager, Mr. JACKSON, secured a hearty endorsement. The next meeting will be looked forward to with even greater interest, for it is the intention then to deal with the profits resulting from the last two Chinese loans, which are as yet unappropriated, and to raise the reserve fund to \$10,000,000, which at an exchange of 2s. will represent £1,000,000, and to invest the same in sterling securities. As Mr. WHEELER remarked in seconding the adoption of the report, "hopes are raised that ere long it may be possible while still adding to the strength of the Bank's position, to add to the usual dividend an occasional bonus." Perhaps, were it not for the exchange spectre, we might even look for some permanent enhancement of the dividend, which would be better than an occasional bonus, but so long as the Bank's capital is exposed to shrinkage by the decline of exchange so long will it be necessary to go on adding to the reserve to an extent that might be deemed unnecessary were the capital in a stable currency. The chairman said on Saturday that with a reserve fund of £1,000,000 they would be independent of silver, whatever the future might have in store for it, for they would then virtually have two capitals, one, the ordinary capital of \$10,000,000 in silver, and the other the reserve of ten millions of dollars at 2s., say, £1,000,000 in gold. But we must confess we do not see how the Bank will be independent of silver. It will have at the end of the present year in its capital and reserve fund the equivalent of two million sterling, but one half of this being in silver will be exposed to shrinkage by depreciation and at the end of five or ten years may represent only half a million sterling instead of the full million. In view of this danger prudence would seem to indicate that the reserve fund should be added to in such proportion as may be necessary to keep the reserve and capital together up to the sterling figure of two millions, and that no bonus or increase of dividend should be thought of until the amount required to make good the loss by depreciation of silver has been set aside. A gold standard would eliminate this risk of loss by exchange from the business of the colony, and we should like to see the Bank, as one of the institutions chiefly affected by it, declaring in favour of the change. The Bank, we believe, gives its employees exchange compensation, and if silver pure and simple is not considered a good enough currency in which to pay the Bank's own salaries we fail to see how it can be considered such an excellent thing for the shareholders or for the trading public in general.

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

THE PEACE PROTOCOL SIGNED.

Hongkong, 15th August.

The war between Spain and America may now be said to have come to a conclusion, Consul-General Wildman receiving official intimation from the State, Navy, and War departments of the United States that the peace protocol had been signed. He subsequently received President McKinley's proclamation declaring an armistice. The instructions sent to Admiral Dewey and General Merritt are to occupy Manila Bay, harbour, and city, to cease hostilities, and to raise the blockade. Mr. Wildman at once began to look round for means to convey the news to Manila, ultimately arranging for the Australian liner *Australia*, which left here on Saturday night, to call in at Manila with the news on her way to Australia. It is to be hoped she arrives before the assault on Manila, so that the great bloodshed which that assault would entail will be avoided.

A Hispano-American Commission is to be appointed to decide upon the future government of the Philippines. The constitution of this Commission has not yet been made public, but that it will include Admiral Dewey, General Merritt, Consul-General Wildman, and Consul Williams goes without saying.

THE "KAISERIN AUGUSTA" ARRIVES IN HONGKONG.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL AUGUSTINE, HIS WIFE AND FAMILY ABOARD.

Hongkong, 16th August.

At noon yesterday the German cruiser *Kaiserin Augusta* arrived in the harbour from Manila. Naturally those aboard of her were at once asked how things were at Manila—whether the Americans had taken possession or not—but beyond saying that there was no change no one would vouchsafe any information. With the exception of a package for the German Consulate the cruiser brought no mail.

Later in the afternoon it oozed out that the Spanish Governor-General of the Philippines and his wife and children had arrived by the *Kaiserin Augusta*. At first we were disposed to treat the report as an idle rumour, but we subsequently found out that it was quite correct. A representative of the *Daily Press* waited upon His Excellency in the hope of obtaining some explanation. The Spanish Consul here (Senor Navarro) was with him, and kindly interpreted the request. The Governor-General, however, though exceedingly courteous, would say nothing except that he was going home as soon as possible.

MANILA FALLS AFTER TWO HOURS' FIGHTING.

THE CITY LITTLE DAMAGED.

LOCAL FILIPPINOS CONGRATULATE PRESIDENT MCKINLEY.

Hongkong, 17th August.

As the *Kaiserin Augusta*, which arrived in the harbour at about one o'clock on Monday noon, brought no American or English mail from Manila, very little information could be obtained at first as to what was taking place in the beleaguered city. The German and Spanish consuls were the only persons who received any despatches. They, however, would divulge nothing and, as we stated in our issue of yesterday morning, Governor-General Augustin, who came over in the cruiser, declined to say anything except that he was going home. All that could be got out of the officers and men of the *Kaiserin Augusta* was that there was no change, the inference being that the Spaniards still held their ground and that it was more than probable that the news of the signing of the peace protocol would reach Admiral Dewey before the Americans made their final move on the city. This was a view which gave much satisfaction in Hongkong in consequence of the bloodshed which would thus be avoided.

Unfortunately, however, it turned out that the first report was not correct, for yesterday

we learned from an authoritative source that Manila had been bombarded by the American fleet and had surrendered. As yet the full particulars are not forthcoming, nor will they be until the American despatches arrive, but sufficient is known to make it apparent that the Spaniards made a gallant stand and that the Americans did not find it so easy to take the city as they anticipated. It would appear that on Friday last it was made known to those in Manila that the culminating struggle would take place on the following day. Consequently many of the foreign residents took refuge in the vessels at hand in the Bay in preparation for such a contingency. At half-past eight on Saturday morning the surrender of the city was formally demanded by General Merritt, who gave the Spaniards an hour in which to think the matter over. As at the end of this time the Spanish flag had not been hauled down, the order to advance to the attack was given. It was at this juncture that Governor-General Augustin, who had resigned the military command ten days before, got on to a German launch with his wife and family and was conveyed to the *Kaiserin Augusta* and taken aboard. Admiral Dewey and his ships deployed along the front of the city, but with the object of saving the buildings as much as possible they directed their fire on to the Spanish defences on the outskirts. Consequently except on the outskirts and immediate vicinity comparatively little damage was done. In the meantime the Californian Regiment moved forward, and making a grand rush carried the first line of defence at the point of the bayonet. When they came to the second line the Spaniards made a stubborn resistance, and the assault was not made until reinforcements had come up. Then the Spaniards were driven into the walled city, where they were so hotly pressed that their commander, seeing that further resistance was useless, displayed the white flag and formally surrendered to his conquerors. The scene which ensued on the American ships and in the American ranks may be to some extent imagined, but we shall have to wait until some eye-witness tells his story before we can get an adequate description.

As soon as the climax had been reached the *Kaiserin Augusta* weighed anchor and turned her head towards Hongkong, where she arrived in 40 hours—a record passage.

The German and French vessels had, we understand, taken up a position in the Bay some considerable distance away from the American fleet.

THE INSURGENTS CONGRATULATE PRESIDENT MCKINLEY.

On Monday Agoncillo, High Commissioner and Ambassador Extraordinary representing the Provisional Government of the Philippine Islands, forwarded through Consul-General Wildman a telegram to President McKinley in the name of the Filipino Junta in Hongkong and in that of its President, Emilio Aguinaldo, congratulating him on the successful termination of the war, commending the occupancy of Manila by the Americans, and adding, "I assure the United States of the allegiance and unquestioning support of our people, and petition that we be granted one or more representatives on the Commission that is to decide the future of the Philippines."

A congratulatory telegram has also been sent to President McKinley on behalf of the wealthy Filipinos in Hongkong, headed by the Cortes and Basa families, the following words occurring in the message, "The American blood shed on Philippine soil seals the islands to America for ever."

ARRIVAL OF THE "ZAFIRO."

MORE NEWS OF LAST SATURDAY'S OPERATIONS.

ONLY A FORMAL RESISTANCE BY THE SPANIARDS.

Hongkong, 18th August.

Information was received in the city yesterday morning that the *Zafiro* had passed Cape D'Aguiar, and at about noon several officers from the ship arrived in the city and were surprised to learn of the signing of the peace protocol, stating that the vessel had anchored in Junk Bay because it was thought that the

United States and Spain were still belligerents, intending to come into British waters to-day. In the meantime the weather got so bad that it was impossible to get the mails off, as no launches could be hired, the owners being afraid to risk them, and in consequence the despatches will not be delivered until to-day.

Captain Maclean, of the *Zafiro*, informs us, however, that the Americans practically walked into Manila on Saturday last, and that the story of the Spaniards having made a desperate resistance was untrue, the resistance being more formal than otherwise. The operations all took place on the Malate side of the city. Here the Spaniards had two lines of defences. The first line consisted of a trench running parallel with Malate River, and behind this was Malate fort, on one side of which was a trench running down to the beach, and on the other a sand bag arrangement extending into the bushes. The American trench was on the other side of the river parallel with these.

Said Captain Maclean:—"It was about half-past nine on Saturday morning when we got under weigh, and about a quarter of an hour afterwards we reached our position, a position from which we could sweep both the Spanish lines. We immediately opened fire, special attention being directed to the fort, and for half-an-hour our guns were hauled vigorously. At the end of this time the fort and the flimsy defences adjoining were almost knocked to pieces.

"Then the troops, under General Andersen, signalled that they were going to advance, and we ceased firing for a time. The troops waded across the river and walked up the beach towards the nearer Spanish trench as calmly as if they were going to luncheon. Practically no effort was made to stay their progress, and when they reached the trench they found it unoccupied, the Spaniards having previously retired. The fleet again began to fire, and the Spaniards made a feeble attempt at replying, but they did but little damage, and soon retired into the walled city, leaving the fort in the hands of our troops. Immediately afterwards the white flag was hoisted, and the firing ceased.

"Then the fleet moved off to the old city and our troops moved forward, a squad being left here and there en route where it was thought advisable. When we reached the old city we caught sight of a launch displaying a white flag, and General Merritt sent Lieutenant Whitter and Admiral Dewey Lieutenant Bromley to see what was wanted. Subsequently General Merritt went ashore and received the formal capitulation.

"I am not aware that the insurgents took part in the operations. They are being kept outside the city.

"I do not think the escape of the Governor-General was known to any of our leaders. He was not in charge of the city at the time, having resigned several days before.

"With regard to the killed and wounded, I am not aware that the Americans lost more than half-a-dozen. The Spanish loss would, of course, be greater."

GETTING READY FOR THE INVASION OF MANILA.

A Hongkong correspondent who signs himself "One of them," has sent the following amusing letter to the *Shanghai Daily Press*:

"The American transport *Zafiro* has come and gone and still no definite news about the fall of Manila. There is a large gathering of 'Harpies' here, all waiting for the fall of Manila. One set has a thousand cases of whisky and 1,600 barrels of beer; enough to make the army and navy drunk for a month. Another sent over in a chartered steamer 6,000 bags of flour, but the vessel brought back 5,000. The *Pasig*, which was caught with arms on board for the insurgents, had loaded 100 tons of ice also and cleared for Tientsin but was stopped and is lying at Whampoa, near Canton, with the 50 barrels of beer sent by Schlitz to the U.S. navy for the 4th of July. By the way, the Captain of the *Pasig* is Captain Ellis, well known in Shanghai.

"Still another set wants to buy Corregidor Island and make a summer resort of it and another wishes to buy the Alhambra (?) for a concert hall. Contractors of all kinds are

gathered here, one wanting to feed the army, another the navy, others the cowboys, still others to build barracks, raise the sunken steamers, buy mining concessions, and in fact anything that may come up. Three separate sets are organizing steamer lines for the Islands.

"One party is here with 60 head of cows and as soon as the American flag goes up over the city he will start a large dairy. There are 15 steamer loads of provisions lying here ready for shipment to Manila. The fare there ranges from 150 to 750 dollars, but at present it is almost impossible to clear for that place without being turned back. The Hotels are all full of pioneers ready to get off though. By the time this reaches you I also shall be off for Manila, and if the U.S. Army and Navy does not take the city we will see what we can do."

THE "IRENE" INCIDENT IN SUBIC BAY.

An official despatch from the Board of Command of the Second Division of the German Asiatic Squadron has been sent from Tsintau (where the *Irene* is now stationed) to the German Consulate at Shanghai. The purpose of the despatch is to correct the erroneous statements published in the *China Gazette* of the 13th July and the *N. C. Daily News* of the 14th July concerning the sending of the *Irene* to Isla Grande in Subic Bay. It has been officially established that the *Irene* went to Isla Grande to bring away distressed Spanish women and children, and that she there accidentally encountered the insurgent steamer *Filipinas*. This steamer, without any demand on the part of the Germans, offered to allow herself to be searched, an offer of which the *Irene* did not, however, avail herself. The *Filipinas* then left of her own accord, and the *Irene* subsequently left the island, having taken on board the women and children. On her way back to Manila she passed outside the bay two American cruisers, neither of which communicated with her. According to this account we see that the *Irene* was engaged only in the cause of humanity, and did not in the slightest degree infringe the rules of neutrality. Any other interpretation of the facts can only be the result of an endeavour to sow the seeds of misunderstanding between the Germans and the Americans.

In the *Shanghai Daily Press* of July 1st a telegram from Hongkong was published, stating that at a picnic given by the officers of the *Irene* at which some of the higher Spanish officers were present as guests, the captain of the German warship had delivered a political speech against the annexation of the Philippines by the United States. We are authorised to state that all the data of this telegram are purely fictitious. It is untrue that any picnic took place on board the *Irene* at which Spanish officers were present, and it is also untrue that the captain of the *Irene* made any speech in the presence of Spanish officers.—*Der Ostasiatische Lloyd*.

The death occurred a few days ago of a well-known Nagasaki celebrity, who through intemperance has joined the ranks of the great majority. We allude to Jack, the sailors' dog, reference to whom has often been made in these columns. During the course of a brief but somewhat checkered career, Jack has been the means of saving the lives of two persons in Eastern waters,—one at Hongkong and the other round the islands at the entrance to Nagasaki harbour. Jack first arrived in Nagasaki nearly two years ago on H. M. S. *Archer*, but finding life on shore more congenial to his nature, he promptly jumped ship, and eventually followed the calling of a beachcomber. It appears that a few days ago Jack in the course of his wanderings fell in with a party of men-of-war's men, with whom he had a good time. The sailors succeeded in making the dog hopelessly intoxicated, and this resulted in the loss of the use of his hind limbs. Massage was resorted to, but in vain; and after a short time poor Jack succumbed, a victim to intemperance. Two or three days prior to his death, Jack swam off to H.M.S. *Bonaventure*, which at that time was lying on the other side of the harbour.—*Nagasaki Press*.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On Monday afternoon, 15th August, a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:—

His EXCELLENCY the ACTING GOVERNOR (Major-General Black, C.B., Officer Commanding the Troops.)

Hon. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (Acting Colonial Secretary.)

Hon. W. M. GOODMAN (Attorney-General.)

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master.)

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police.)

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Acting Colonial Treasurer.)

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works.)

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Ho KAI.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. E. R. BELILIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. J. J. BELL-IRVING.

Hon. WEI YUK.

Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE (Clerk of Councils.)

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted as a correct record.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

On the motion of the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER, financial minutes Nos. 10 and 11 were referred to the Finance Committee.

AN OPEN SPACE AT KOWLOON TO BE PRESERVED.

AN INTERESTING RELIC OF ANTIQUITY.

Hon. Ho KAI—In accordance with the notice I gave at the last meeting of the Council, I have much pleasure in moving the following resolution:—"That it is desirable in the interests of the public that the piece of ground situate at British Kowloon and generally known as 'Sung Wong Toi' or 'Sung Wong Tong', together with a certain area of land surrounding and adjacent thereto as delineated and marked red on the annexed plan, should not be let for building or other purposes, but should be reserved for the benefit of the public in perpetuity, and that the same should be delimited and marked off and kept in good order by the Public Works Department of this colony." I have included in my resolution both of the names given to the place, viz.,—"Sung Wong Toi," which means a tower of observation of a King of Sung, and "Sung Wong Tong," which means hall of a King of Sung—in order to prevent misunderstanding. The exact designation of the place seemed to be in doubt, and I thought it wise in order to fix the place more particularly to give both terms. I think myself that "Sung Wong Toi," a place of observation of a King of Sung, is the right definition; but seeing that the other name was adopted by certain European Chinese scholars, such as Dr. Eitel, I thought it best to put both names in my resolution. In moving this resolution I am guided by several motives and reasons. My principal motive is to preserve an additional open space for the colony of Hongkong and its dependencies. It may seem to be looking too far ahead, as it were, at this time of the day to reserve an open space for British Kowloon, where the population is not very great, but taking into consideration the rapid growth of Hongkong itself, from the barren rock of 50 years ago to a most thickly-populated place—more thickly populated per square mile, I should say, than any other city in the world—I do not think we are looking so far ahead after all in preserving this piece of ground for the benefit of the public of Hongkong and Kowloon. Knowing as we do the Chinese, their love of British liberty and protection, and their great appreciation of British justice and fair play, we can tell I think beforehand that in a very few years, if the territory recently acquired by the British Government, together with British Kowloon, be administered with due care and tact, the Chinese will flock to the place in overwhelming numbers, and I think that in less than ten years the whole place will be occupied, and that Kowloon will soon become a centre of English trade and manufacture second only to Hongkong itself

—(hear, hear)—a centre which will rival Hongkong itself in prosperity and growth. Therefore, I think that after all we are not looking too far ahead in reserving a place of exercise and recreation for a future generation. My next reason in proposing this resolution is that I wish to preserve for the colony of Hongkong a monument of some antiquity. There stands on this spot a large stone with an inscription upon it close upon 600 or over 600 years old. Everywhere in this colony we meet with new objects—inventions of modern civilisation—but in this one spot we can gaze upon a monument of over 600 years old—(hear, hear)—and although I am not a very great admirer of antiquity still at the same time I think we owe it to ourselves and to the public of Hongkong to see that this particular spot is preserved. (Hear, hear.) My third reason for wishing to preserve this piece of ground is to carry out the stipulation which the Chinese Government made when Kowloon was leased and finally ceded to Great Britain. If you refer to old papers you will find that a stipulation was contained in the treaty ceding Kowloon that this spot, Sung Wong Toi, together with the hill on which it stands, should be reserved for ever. This stipulation has not been carried out. We have not done anything with the site, but I think the stipulation has been lost sight of more or less. I think these are good and sufficient reasons for preserving the site and for keeping our promise as to the preservation of the place. I think the inhabitants of Victoria do not know this place sufficiently well, and I would like to refer them to the history of Hongkong by Dr. Eitel, where, on pages 129 and 130, there is a short and interesting account of the very spot I propose to reserve. As everybody can get access to this work, I will not detain you by reading the passage to which I refer, particularly as most of us have already had the pleasure of hearing it read by the honourable gentleman opposite (Hon. T. H. Whitehead). It is to your Excellency we owe a pleasant afternoon's outing to this spot, and when this resolution is passed and carried out, I hope the public of Hongkong will pay a visit to this place. I am sure they will be amply repaid for their trouble. They can satisfy their curiosity and add to their knowledge of local matters. They will find there ancient entrenchments and encampments from which they will learn a good deal of ancient history—how the people who then occupied the land fortified themselves. Here the geologist can find grand specimens of Hongkong granite, the best kind of stone, hundreds of tons in weight. Anyone fond of ancient inscriptions will find there lines inscribed on rock which will satisfy abundantly his taste in that respect; and, furthermore, if he is fond of mythology he will also find there something which will satisfy him. There is a story that when the King of Sung was hurrying away from the spot to avoid capture he left his girdle behind and it petrified and became fixed to the rock and formed a belt half round it. Of course I am not saying this is genuine. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion I can only say that a very pleasant afternoon can be spent upon this spot. (Hear, hear.)

Hon. WEI A YUK seconded.

The DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS—I have much pleasure in supporting the resolution. It would be something more than a pity to destroy this interesting relic of the past, about the only historical relic, as it were, in the vicinity of Hongkong. The only commercial value of the spot would be as a granite quarry. Granite and other good building stone happens to be a thing with which we are particularly rich in the colony, while in the territory about to be leased by China to England there is sufficient excellent granite and other good building stone to last for a great many centuries and for half a dozen places besides Hongkong. For that reason I think we can very well spare this spot and at the same time preserve this interesting relic.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—The resolution has my hearty support, but I think it would be interesting to the members of the Council if the hon. member would give us the details as to the promise given by the British Government to the Chinese Government with reference to this spot. Was it in writing or was it verbal?

Hon. Ho KAI—You will find the following on page 129 of Dr. Eitel's history:—"When the Peninsula was leased and subsequently ceded to the British Crown, the Chinese Government specially stipulated that the rock inscription and the whole hill should remain untouched." (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table finance report No. 3.

NATURALISATION OF CHINESE.

The first readings of Bills for the naturalisation of Chan Li Choy *alias* Chan Chun Chuen, of Leung Luk, *alias* Leung Cheung Soy and Li Chung, *alias* Li Chan Shing, were passed.

THE RECREATION GROUND FOR CAUSEWAY BAY.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I beg to propose the first reading of a Bill entitled an ordinance to provide for the reservation of certain land at Causeway Bay as a recreation ground and for making of regulations as to its use.

Hon. T. H. Whitehead seconded.

Carried unanimously.

His EXCELLENCY—The Council have already given their opinion upon this matter, so I do not see why it should not be absolutely recorded on the minutes of the Council.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I move that the standing orders be suspended in order that this Bill may be read a second time to-day. The matter has already been brought before the Council by resolution, it being resolved by the Legislative Council that it was desirable in the interest of the public that the land mentioned in this Ordinance should be reserved as an open space and appropriated for the purpose of recreation, and that the sanction of the Secretary of State should be asked for the introduction of an Ordinance giving the Governor in Council power to make regulations from time to time as to the uses of the land reserved and to enforce such regulations by suitable penalties. That sanction was asked for and has been granted. The Secretary of State suggested, however, that the right should be reserved to re-appropriate the land should it appear necessary or desirable to do so in the interests of either the local or the Imperial Government. Of course if at some future time for Government or for Imperial purposes not now foreseen it becomes desirable to use the land for some other purpose this can be done, provision being made for it in the Bill. I may say that the Secretary of State has approved of the title of the "Queen's Recreation Ground" being given to the ground—(Hear, hear)—so that it will be a fitting memorial of the Jubilee of Her Majesty. The Bill gives the Governor power to make regulations, these regulations to be published in the *Gazette*, and provides for notice of re-appropriation being gazetted should re-appropriation be considered necessary at any future time. As to the identification of the land a plan has been prepared for depositing in the Land Office, such plan to be signed by the Director of Public Works and countersigned by the Governor.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD seconded.

Carried

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed and the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD seconded the second reading. The Bill was then considered in Committee.

His EXCELLENCY—I just want to say a word on this subject. I have personally taken a very great interest in this matter from the very first—(hear, hear)—and I feel convinced that to-day the Council has taken action with regard to an Ordinance which although not showy will I believe be more thought of in the future and will do more good than many of the other Ordinances which stand on the statute book of the colony. (Hear, hear.) From the first I have felt very strongly on this point. Hongkong is growing, and we know that in all the great cities of the world—in Vienna, Paris, London, New York, and elsewhere—it has been necessary at great expense to buy back for the public use land which a little more foresight would have secured long ago. Therefore I think the Council has most wisely taken action in this matter in securing this land for ever for the physical development of the

youth and manhood of the colony. (Hear, hear.) And the action of the Council with regard to the other matter is no less important—the preservation of this hill of a King of Sung. My friend Dr. Ho Kai has called this a brand new colony, and we are glad to have the respectable halo of antiquity drawn over us. (Hear, hear.) To China 600 years is as yesterday, but with us in Europe 600 years is a long long way back. Dr. Ho Kai has put the matter very clearly before us, and I will only say this. It interests me in this way. From the earliest ages of the world when man emerged from the lower creation—if he did emerge from the lower creation—that hill has been a natural spot of defence. In primeval times thousands of years ago that hill was looked upon by man as a natural defence against wild animals first and possibly against wild tribes later. In all parts of the world you find these natural ramparts. We find them in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and I have always looked upon them with particular interest. I was glad when my brother officer, Lieutenant Maclellan, drew my attention to it in the interesting lecture which he delivered in January of the present year. As I said before, I believe we have done good work to-day in preserving these sites for the recreation and instruction of those coming after. (Hear, hear.)

The Council having resumed,

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL proposed that the Bill be read a third time and passed.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD I second that. I do so with pleasure, and I sincerely hope that the wish which the honourable member opposite (Hon. Dr. Ho Kai) expressed when the resolution on this subject was before the Council will be borne in mind—that the ground be reserved for all nationalities, irrespective of race, creed, or religion. I can assure the honourable member that the men who take part in recreation down there would welcome with open arms not only the senior member who represents the Chinese but the junior member if they would come and take part in our recreation and health-giving exercise. They would receive a right hearty welcome. Their example might have a wonderful effect on the viceroys in the various provinces and on ministers in the Tsung-li-yamen. I need only ask you to look at India to see what our Indian friends have done. India has given us one of the best cricketers the world has ever produced. It has also given us excellent football players, and it has put into the field a polo team which I think has not yet been beaten. I venture to hope that at no very distant date the representatives of the Chinese and their friends will come down and take part in the manly recreation which goes on at Causeway Bay. (Hear, hear.)

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

VACATIONS IN THE SUPREME COURT.

The ATTORNEY GENERAL—I propose the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance for the establishment of vacations in the Supreme Court. Your Excellency has already spoken strongly on the necessity for places of relaxation, but in order to enjoy any places of relaxation it is necessary to have time to do so. (Hear, hear.) There is a certain class of men who are really being hardworked—(laughter, and hear, hear) of whom it may be said as was said by Tennyson of the brook—“Men may come and men may go,” but their work “goes on for ever.” I do not know whether it is a good thing for them. It may be, but there is a proverb, “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.” I have therefore much pleasure in proposing the second reading of the Bill for the establishment of vacations in the Supreme Court. It has long been a matter of surprise to me that at Hongkong there have been no vacations in the Supreme Court. I am not aware that such a state of things exists elsewhere or generally in the colonies. Most assuredly it is not the case in England. In England there are four vacations in the Supreme Court—the long vacation, which begins on the 10th of August and expires on the 24th of October; the Christmas vacation, which begins on the 24th of December and expires on the 6th of January; the Easter vacation, and the Whitsuntide vacation. First of all they have the long vacation of nearly two and a half months; they have 14 days at Christmas, four or five days at Easter, and three or four days at Whitsuntide. In other words their vaca-

tions extend over three months in the year, and it is found a benefit to the profession that it should be so, that men should have some sort of relaxation. In this colony in 1873, without going further back, an Ordinance—Ordinance 12 of 1873—provided by section 26 a vacation of two months during August and September. In 1882, by an Ordinance passed in September of that year, this vacation was practically done away with *in toto*. It is no use now going into the history of the passing of that Ordinance, but we have had since that time 16 years' experience, and there seems to be an almost unanimous feeling among both branches of the profession that some vacation should be observed by the Supreme Court. The old vacation of two months in August and September seems to have followed the English practice. We all know that August is a most delightful month in England. I am not aware that August is a delightful month either in Hongkong or any of the places adjacent where you can go, and no doubt the time of year was found unsuitable. The desire of the profession also appears to be that the vacation should be one month instead of two—that it should be from the 20th September to the 17th October. That is a time of the year when persons who need relaxation would possibly go to Japan to enjoy themselves. This morning I received a letter from three members of the profession with regard to this Ordinance. This has not given me much opportunity of going into it. Had they sent it on Saturday I should have had much longer to consider the matter, but I have done the best I could during the short time. I have looked at the circular sent round before this Bill was brought in, and I find that one of the gentlemen who signed this letter said he did not object and that another of them said he objected to the short vacation, saying it would not be of any use to anybody. I referred these objections to the gentleman who was prominent in bringing this Bill to my attention, and he said that the almost unanimous feeling was that short vacations were of considerable utility and would not interfere in any way with the work required by the public. It will make no difference to myself. My experience of the Court is confined chiefly, at the present time, to the criminal work and provision is made in the Bill for the criminal work to go on precisely as though there were no vacations, and also the work in the Summary Court, though there is power given to the Judges to postpone any matter which can reasonably be postponed over the vacation. But I understand that the judge of the Summary Court proceeds much in the same way as before whether the vacation is on or not. The judges have been consulted with regard to the Bill. The learned Chief Justice, who is always very kind in these matters, has read through the Bill, and it has met with his approval. The Judges have therefore approved of the Bill and the whole of the profession with the exception of three solicitors, only one of whom disapproved of it *in toto*. In these days one goes a good deal by majorities, and there is a vast majority in favour of the Bill. To prevent any inconvenience the Bill will not be brought into operation till 1st December next.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

The Bill having been considered in committee it was read a third time and passed.

A SUPPLEMENTARY VOTE.

On the motion of the ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER, seconded by the ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY, the Council went into Committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance to authorise the appropriation of a supplementary sum of three hundred and sixty-eight thousand, eight hundred and sixty-nine dollars and ninety-three cents, to defray the charges of the year 1887.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

THE REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I have the honour to move the third reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the law relating to the Registration of Trade Marks. At the previous meeting of the Council the Council resolved itself into Committee, and the Bill was passed clause by clause, certain amendments being made. Various suggestions for the amendment of the Bill have been made. This morning I had an interview with the honourable member for the Chamber of Commerce. I have gone into these matters with him, and I

pointed out that the suggested improvements related chiefly to the rules. When the Bill was published the first time I published a memorandum with it and also the Trade Mark Rules for 1898 which were proposed to be made by the Governor. These rules, include the classification of goods in accordance with the second schedule and the fees. The Bill itself gives the Governor in Council power to make the necessary rules and to prescribe the fees, and until the Bill is passed it will be impossible for the Governor to make these rules including the schedules attached to them. If the honourable member for the Chamber of Commerce will point out in the course of the week any objections to the rules those objections can be duly considered, and I shall then be in a position to lay before His Excellency the Rules as amended. Among other suggestions it was said that it was rather hard that a fee should be charged for the continuance at the end of 14 years of a trade mark which was registered before the passing of the Ordinance, but in this I am only following on the lines followed in England. As regards the Bill itself the only matter I have had my attention specially called to as far as I can recollect at the present moment is with regard to application for registration, it being suggested that we should allow application to be made by an agent of a firm and also that he should be allowed to make a statutory declaration or affidavit, subject to a confirmatory affidavit being made within three months by the party for whom the application for registration is made. I have made provision for the making of the application for registration by an agent, but when we come to the statutory declaration or affidavit, I think it would be entirely out of place to allow an affidavit to be made by deputy. A man must speak for himself, and be answerable if he speaks falsely. I do not think there was any other point except with regard to clause 3, which says:—“(1.) For the purposes of this Ordinance, a trade mark must consist of or contain at least one of the following essential particulars:—(a) A name of an individual or firm printed, impressed, or woven in some particular and distinctive manner; or (b) a written signature or copy of a written signature of the individual or firm applying for registration thereof as a trade mark; or (c) a distinctive device, mark, brand, heading, label, or ticket; or (d) an invented word or invented words; or (e) a word or words having no reference to the character or quality of the goods, and not being a geographical name.” I should like to point out that these words are not my own words, but are taken absolutely verbatim from the Act in force in England, and what is the law in England can very well be the law here. The objection taken was that under that definition there might be some Chinese word or character in use as a trade mark, but seeing that they find no difficulty in England I do not think we shall find any here. Then application has to be made to the Governor, who can at his discretion grant it or otherwise. The trade mark, I assume, would come before the Attorney-General, and the Governor would be advised by him. I think we cannot do better than follow the latest Act in England. Therefore, I do not think there is any objection, so far as I am aware, to the Bill itself. One or two slight matters may be improved, and when I have had the opportunity of seeing the honourable member for the Chamber of Commerce as regards the classification of goods I will consider them. I should not attempt to grapple with such a subject out of my own head. The list of 50 classes of goods has been sent to me from England, and this list, with some slight variation, will, I think, be good enough for Hongkong. As regards the rules I shall be pleased to receive suggestions, but those suggestions should be made speedily.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—Before this is passed there is one question I should like to ask. I can speak from knowledge that the Attorney-General has put in a vast amount of time in regard to this Bill. It is full of technicalities and has entailed a great amount of work. Rule 5 says:—“An application for registration of a trade mark, if made by any firm or partnership, may be signed by some one or

more members of such firm or partnership, as the case may be." It may well happen that no member or partner in the firm is resident in the colony at the time application is made, and it might be well, therefore, if we can make provision for application to be made by an agent.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I have put it into the Bill that an agent may make application; but this will not apply with regard to an affidavit.

The Bill was read a third time and passed.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council then adjourned until the 29th of August.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee then took place, the Acting Colonial Secretary presiding.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted as a correct record.

The Committee agreed to vote a sum of \$5 0 in aid of the vote "Coal, oil, and water for steam launch."

The CHAIRMAN—This is needful on account of the increased price of coal this year.

The HARBOUR MASTER—It does not say in what department.

The CHAIRMAN—The Government Marine Surveyor's Department.

The Committee also agreed to vote a sum of \$2,500 in aid of the vote "Miscellaneous works."

The CHAIRMAN—In explanation of this I may tell honourable members that it refers to the expense to be incurred by the Government in laying out a piece of land in the west part of the town. It is proposed to terrace and plant with trees and shrubs a site in the vicinity of Richmond Terrace, the residents of the neighbourhood having agreed to provide a like sum of \$2,500.

It was understood that should the Government require the land for other purposes the money subscribed should be returned to the subscribers or their representatives, without interest.

The Committee then adjourned.

SUPREME COURT.

13th August.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. JUSTICE WISE (PUISNE JUDGE).

LI SHEW V. TSOI HEUNG PO.

JUDGMENT.

Judgment was delivered in the above case at the Supreme Court on Saturday.

The Chief Justice (Sir John Carrington) said—This appeal is from a judgment of Wise, J., in favour of the Respondent, who was the defendant in the Court below. By the writ of summons the Appellant, the plaintiff in the Court below, sued the Respondent and another man named Tso Cheong, "traders lately carrying on business at Canton under the style of Fu Shun Tong," to recover the sum of taels 2,160, equivalent to \$3,000, due on a promissory note made by the Fu Shun Tong in favour of the Appellant and dated the 27th February, 1897; the sum of taels 1,440, equivalent to \$2,000, due on a promissory note made between the same parties and dated the 2nd March, 1897; and the sum of \$279.60 for interest on those promissory notes, making a total claim of \$5,279.60. Copies of the notes were set out in the writ. The defendant Tso Cheong did not enter an appearance, and on the 1st November, 1897, the Appellant obtained an immediate absolute decree as against him for the amount claimed, with interest and costs of suit.

The Respondent obtained leave to defend the suit and the case proceeded against him in the ordinary way. By his petition the Appellant alleged that he had on the 26th February, 1897, lent to the defendants, partners as above-mentioned, \$3,000 and on the 27th February, 1897, \$2,000, and that the defendants by the two promissory notes already mentioned,

which were chopped with the chop of the Fu Shun Tong, promised to repay those amounts with interest at the rate of 14 2-5ths per cent. per annum after twenty days from the dates of the notes respectively, according to Chinese computation. It was then alleged that on the 25th March, 1897, and at various subsequent dates the Appellant had demanded payment of the sums so due but the defendants had refused to pay them, and judgment was prayed for such sums, with interest and costs of suit.

By his answer the Respondent denied that he was a partner in the Fu Shun Tong or had any connexion with it except as a creditor of it and "except as the Official Secretary of the late Wai Sing Lottery Farm at Canton of which the Fu Shun Tong was a part proprietor." Further he denied that the Appellant ever lent any moneys whatever to him or that he ever gave or made, either through the Fu Shun Tong or otherwise, any promissory notes whatever to or in favour of the Appellant.

When the suit was ripe for hearing I was engaged in the hearing of a long case, and my learned brother kindly undertook to dispose of it for me. It was thought that the hearing would be completed in two or three days. But, as it turned out, it occupied nearly ten days. A large mass of evidence, both oral and documentary, of an exceedingly complicated and conflicting character, was placed before the Court, and I entirely agree with the opinion of the learned Judge that "perjury and forgery were rife, certainly on one side and perhaps on both." In the result the learned Judge said that, "after careful consideration of the evidence, he was of opinion that he could not accept the Appellant's promissory notes as genuine and in fact he did not think they were, and that that of course disposed of the question of the Respondent being a partner in the Fu Shun Tong or not." Judgment was accordingly given for the Respondent, with costs. From that judgment the present appeal is brought.

In the case of the China Merchants' Steam Navigation Company v. The Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company, Limited, which was decided by this Court on the 23rd July last, it was held that, in dealing with an appeal from the decision of a judge sitting without a jury, the Court would guide itself by the rule laid down by the majority of the Court of Appeal in the Colonial Securities Trust Company, Limited, v. Massey [1896]. 1 Q. B. 38, namely, that where a case tried by a judge without a jury comes before the Court of Appeal, that Court will presume that the decision of the judge on the facts was right and will not disturb it unless the Appellant satisfactorily makes out that it was wrong. At the same time it is to be observed that in the present case, where the oral testimony produced on the one side is absolutely irreconcilable with that produced on the other, a great deal turns on the meaning and effect of the documentary evidence put forward by the parties. With regard to the oral evidence the opinion of the Judge who saw and heard the witnesses at the hearing is entitled to the greatest weight; with regard to the documentary evidence the Court of Appeal is perhaps equally competent to estimate its value and effect.

The evidence is so voluminous and conflicting that an analysis of it in detail would cause this judgment to run to an excessive length. I therefore propose to state in brief outline the material facts as I find them.

It is important to consider in the first place what are the real questions which the Court has to determine. I think Mr. Drummond was right in saying, at the hearing in the Court below, that these questions are, first, did the Appellant lend the two sums in question to the Fu Shun Tong, and, secondly, if he did so, is the Respondent liable as a partner in that Tong? The Judge in the Court below seems to have regarded the question of the genuineness or otherwise of the promissory notes as of primary importance, and having decided that question in the negative he held that the Appellant's case had failed. But it is to be observed that, although in the writ of summons the cause of action was stated to be the non-payment of promissory notes, yet in the petition the cause of action was set forth as money lent and the promissory notes

alleged to have been given in acknowledgment were relegated to the second place. It seems to me, therefore, that the right order of proceeding is to deal with the question of the loans in the first place and with that of the promissory notes in the second place. It may be that the loans were really made and yet that the promissory notes are false. At the same time, while I do not regard the genuineness of the promissory notes as vital to the Appellant's case as it stands on the pleadings, I am bound to say that I regard it as of extreme importance. For it must be conceded that, even if the Court arrives at the conclusion that the Appellant really lent the money to the Fu Shun Tong, its faith in the credibility of the evidence on which that conclusion is founded must be rudely shaken if it subsequently forms the opinion that the promissory notes put forward by the Appellant in proof of his statements as to the loan are fictitious. Indeed, it may well be that such a finding would reverse the balance and cause the Court to refuse entirely to accept and act on the evidence of a litigant who had endeavoured to mislead it in so gross and shameless a manner. On the other hand, if the promissory notes are genuine, they afford the strongest possible proof that the loans were really made.

I propose then to consider in the first place whether the Appellant lent the money to the Fu Shun Tong and whether the promissory notes are genuine. If the answer is in favour of the Appellant, the further question must then be considered, whether the Respondent is a partner in the Fu Shun Tong and therefore liable for the loans. To find an answer to these questions it is necessary in the first instance to examine the facts and circumstances relating to the formation, working, and dissolution of the Fu Shun Tong as part of the Wai Sing Lottery Farm.

In the spring of the year 1896 certain capitalists in Canton conceived the idea of obtaining a grant of the Wai Sing Lottery Farm for the province of Kwangtung, the previous grant having then expired or being about to expire. The moving spirit was a man named Cheung Pat Ting. Mr. Ho Wyson, a solicitor of this Court who has lately died, interested himself in the project, and at his suggestion Tso Cheong embarked in it. Application was made to the authorities at Canton in March or April, 1896, for a grant which was ultimately made, for a period of six years, after a considerable sum of money had been found by the applicants, and the Farm commenced business on the 10th October, 1896. The Farm was worked by a syndicate called the Kung' Ki, which again was composed of two tongs called the Man On Tong and the Fu Shun Tong. With the Man On Tong we are not concerned. As to the Fu Shun Tong it is admitted that Tso Cheong was a partner in it. According to the evidence for the Appellant there was only one other partner, namely, the Respondent, who had a half share, while it is said by the Respondent and his witnesses that he was not a partner but that certain other persons were partners. Then there was a lottery station in Canton called the Wing U I, which was worked in connexion with the Fu Shun Tong. Here again it is said for the Appellant that Tso Cheong and the Respondent were partners in the Wing U I, while the Respondent maintains that he had nothing to do with it. The Respondent was manager of the Fu Shun Tong, but it is in dispute whether he was also manager of the Man On Tong. He appears to have performed the part of interviewing the officials in connexion with the Farm, and for this he was well fitted because he held, or at any rate had held, official rank himself and had been connected with a former Farm. The persons concerned in the venture never seem to have had sufficient capital to satisfy the large payments required, and they were throughout more or less in pecuniary difficulties. The lotteries in connexion with two examinations were carried through; the first in a regular and proper manner, but the second to the disappointment of some of the prize-winners. The authorities became dissatisfied and cancelled the grant on the 4th March, 1897, confiscating at the same time the sum of taels 580,000 which had been paid in by the Farm. Some days later the mob attacked and looted some of the houses in which the business had been carried on. It is alleged by the Re-

spondent that the books of the Fu Shun Tong were saved and kept by the accountant of that Tong, Tsoi Hon Shing, and three of these books were produced at the hearing.

It was in these circumstances that the transactions in question in this case took place.

The story told by the Appellant is simple enough in its main features. The Appellant is a Chinese banker and Californian dealer carrying on business in Hongkong. His banking business is carried on under the name of Kwong Tai and his Californian business under that of Kwong Mi Un. He said that he had known Tso Cheong, also called Tso Chik Chan, for three or four years, and that, on the introduction of Tso Cheong, he became acquainted with the Respondent on the 10th October, 1896. He was then informed by the Respondent that he (the Respondent) was a partner with Tso Cheong in the Fu Shun Tong, which was connected with the Wai Sing Lottery Farm. In his examination in chief the Appellant said that between that date and the 16th February, 1897, he lent to the Fu Shun Tong, through the Respondent, the sum of taels 4,000. In his cross-examination he went further and said that in the 10th moon he lent \$1,000 and about the same time \$1,500; that each of these sums was repaid a month after it was lent; and that about the end of the 11th moon he lent the taels 4,000, which were repaid in January, 1897. On the 16th February, 1897, the Appellant was called to the family house of Tso Cheong in Hongkong. There he saw the Respondent and Tso Cheong. The former said he wanted a loan for the Fu Shun Tong of \$5,000 for twenty days. It was ultimately agreed that the Appellant should advance the money in ten days' time, and the Respondent said that if he could not come himself, he would send Chan Tai Shang, a foki of the Fu Shun Tong, to fetch it. Accordingly, on the 26th February, 1897, Chan Tai Shang, who was known to the Appellant, came and received from the Appellant the sum of \$3,000, for which he gave a receipt. On the 1st March, 1897, he came again, got back his receipt, and delivered to the Appellant a promissory note for the \$3,000, bearing the chop of the Fu Shun Tong. On the following day the Appellant handed to Chan Tai Shang the further sum of \$2,000, and either at the same time or shortly afterwards received from him a promissory note bearing the Fu Shun Tong chop for that amount. The Fu Shun Tong was closed on the 4th March, 1897, and the Appellant has not recovered any of the amounts lent or any interest on them. The Appellant said that Tso Cheong was indebted to him in the sum of \$33,500 for money lent.

This story of the Appellant was corroborated by Tso Cheong, who said he was present when the arrangement for the loan was made; that he saw the second sum of \$2,000 brought by Chan Tai Shang; that the chop on both promissory notes is the chop of the Fu Shun Tong; and that in the case of the second note he saw the chop affixed.

Further corroboration was afforded by Chan Tai Shang, who declared that he was sent by the Respondent to fetch the two sums of money lent by the Appellant; that he received them and delivered them to the Respondent at Canton; and that the Respondent handed to him the two promissory notes which he delivered to the Appellant. He also said that these notes bore the chop of the Fu Shun Tong.

The only other witnesses called for the Appellant were Mr. Ho Wyson and Li Tsat. The former gave evidence tending to show that the Respondent was a partner in the Fu Shun Tong. Li Tsat was called to produce a promissory note alleged to have been given to him by the Fu Shun Tong and similar in character and chop to the promissory notes put forward by the Appellant.

The case thus made by the Appellant was traversed at every point and in every conceivable way by the Respondent. It will be remembered that his answer was confined to the setting up of the defence that he was not a partner in the Fu Shun Tong; that the Appellant never lent him any money; and that he never made, either through the Fu Shun Tong or otherwise, any promissory notes in favour of the Appellant. It appears to me that the meaning of this defence was that the Appellant might, as alleged in his petition, have

lent money to the Fu Shun Tong and have received promissory notes in acknowledgment of the loans, but that the Respondent was not responsible in respect of these transactions because he held no pecuniary interest in the Fu Shun Tong. The issues, then, which were raised by the pleadings were very simple, and there was no indication furnished to the Appellant by the pleadings or by interrogatories that other grounds of defence would be brought forward. But at the hearing, while the original defences were adhered to, several other defences were pressed upon the consideration of the Court below. It was alleged that the whole case of the Appellant was founded in fraud and supported by forgery; in other words, that there was no debt due from the Fu Shun Tong to the Appellant, but that the Appellant and Tso Cheong had conspired together to put forward this claim against the Respondent with a view of making good, to that extent, the hopelessly bad debt of \$33,500 due from Tso Cheong to the Appellant. It was not denied that the two sums of \$3,000 and \$2,000 came from the Appellant to the Fu Shun Tong at Canton by the hands of Chan Tai Shang, but it was said, first, that they were in repayment of a loan made to the Appellant by the Fu Shun Tong, and, secondly, that they were taken to the Wing U I as a fictitious loan from the Appellant to that firm. It was asserted that the promissory notes produced by the Appellant were forgeries; that they did not bear the inner counter chop of the Fu Shun Tong, as they would have done if they had been genuine, but the outer counter chop; and that they had been fabricated with the aid of Tso Cheong, who had possession of the outer counter chop of the Tong. The same was said with regard to the promissory note produced by Li Tsat. A number of promissory notes of the Fu Shun Tong which were alleged to be genuine were produced by various witnesses.

Such is the substance of the oral evidence on the principal issue as to the alleged lending of the money by the Appellant to the Fu Shun Tong. On a consideration of that evidence I find it exceedingly difficult to make up my mind as to which side is speaking the truth, especially as I have not had an opportunity of seeing and hearing the witnesses give their evidence. The Judge in the Court below expressed a doubt as to a statement of the Respondent and said that in other parts of his cross-examination also his evidence was somewhat shaken. On the other hand he said that "Tso Cheong in the witness box was a very unsatisfactory witness and did not impress him favourably," and he commented adversely on the evidence of Mr. Ho Wyson. Of the demeanour of the other witnesses he did not speak. It is necessary therefore to examine carefully the documentary evidence with a view of finding what light is thrown by it upon the matters in dispute. Even here it will be seen that there is considerable difficulty in drawing satisfactory conclusions.

On the 15th September, 1896, the Respondent at Canton writes to Tso Cheong—Exhibit AA1—to inform him that "the whole concern is now in a settled state and that he was merely waiting for him to bring money to Canton, so that the same could be paid in, together with other sums of money." Then he adverts to the difficulty and delay in getting the shares taken up, and suggests that it would be desirable for him to "raise a few thousand for the purpose of meeting the engagements of the Canton House at the time of commencing business," even if he could only obtain the loan for a short time and at a high rate of interest. It is certainly clear from this letter that there was a want of money for the Fu Shun Tong, but on the other hand it will be observed that the letter was written before the business had commenced and fees had been received.

The next letter—Exhibit 2—dated the 7th day 11th moon, the 11th December, 1896, is favourable to the Appellant's contention. It was written by the Respondent at the Fu Shun Tong to Tso Cheong at Hongkong. It describes the great difficulty which the writer had experienced in raising a sum of money required by the authorities to be paid on the 4th of the month, and it presses earnestly on the addressee the necessity of his taking part in the effort to find the money required for the distribution of prizes on the 25th or 26th of the month. It

refers to applications for assistance to Wa Chuen and the Appellant, apparently already made or pending, and asks that negotiations with them should be completed on the 26th or 27th for loans repayable in a month or at the most 20 days, such repayment to be made from the proceeds of the tickets for the Chew Fui Examination. It suggests that Wa Chuen, the Appellant, and Sheung will each be able to accommodate them with 10,000 or 8,000 (sic.) It does not appear what steps, if any, were taken by Tso Cheong to comply with the directions contained in this letter. According to the evidence of the Appellant, he had already, when this letter was written, lent to the Fu Shun Tong two sums of \$1,000 and 1,500, which were either still owing or had been repaid at the date of the letter. But I think the idea conveyed by the letter is that no loan had yet been made by the Appellant; and that the application to be made for one was the first of its kind. On the other hand it is to be remembered that the loan of taels 4,000 is said by the Appellant to have been made about the end of the 11th moon, after this letter was written, although he says it was asked for, not by Tso Cheong, but by the Respondent. Yet it is clear enough from this letter that in December, 1896, the Fu Shun Tong was eager to borrow money from the Appellant and there is nothing to show that at that time the Appellant was desirous to borrow money from the Fu Shun Tong.

But the next letter—Exhibit I—shows that the case was changed in January, 1897. This letter is made up of an envelope and two sheets. It was put to Tso Cheong in cross-examination as having been written by him to the Respondent. He admitted that both sheets were in his handwriting but said that they did not form one letter but were parts of two separate letters. Both the evidence of Mr. Mok Man Cheung, the translator of the Court, and external examination support his statement on this point. It is no doubt in a high degree unsatisfactory that a litigant should place before the Court garbled or composite letters, and such conduct induces a strong suspicion that the suppressed portions of the letters contain passages which tell against his case. But, however this may be in the present instance, the meaning of the portions of letters put in evidence is sufficiently plain. The envelope bears date "the 28th day," no month or year being mentioned. Tso Cheong said that the second part—Exhibit Ib—was "forwarded before the business was actually started," and that the second part—Exhibit Ia—was written in the 10th moon of the 22nd year (November-December, 1896). On the other hand the Respondent said that he received the letter on the 2nd January, 1897. Exhibit Ia is in the following terms:—

"I clearly mention the amount of \$50 as remuneration to Li Shui Shek and he was exceedingly pleased on hearing this and he said he had a comrade and that this sum must be partly given to him so as to avoid any difficulty. He said again that he did not know whether the money collected for lottery tickets at Canton had been paid, or in any way disposed of, that if there was any surplus he would request that \$10,000 should be sent to the Kwong Shing Lung jade stone shop, Lower Lau Yan Gate Street. That of this \$10,000, \$6,000 was to be regarded as money deposited with Kwong Shing Lung with the request that a receipt might be given stating what date the money was to be withdrawn, the remaining \$4,000 should be treated as payment to Li Shui Shek, and received on his behalf by the Kwong Shing Lung. There is no need to state in writing when this money was to be withdrawn. Why Shui Shek wanted all this to be done in this manner, he had a certain object in view intending to hoodwink his colleagues, and by so doing he could prevent any dispute that no money had been paid in. When the prizes came to be distributed not only the money could be repaid, but he would also be able to give assistance to some extent. Now this is a matter consistent with reason and human feeling and I have perfect confidence in him, but when the time came how much assistance he would give us I do not know. As to these several thousand dollars there would not be any failure or default. I have been a friend of his for a long time and I can somewhat

know his conduct. Unless he was disappointed through some other people as in the case of certain friends promising to become shareholders, I therefore cannot say whether this may not happen, but as regards his own affairs as well as his dealings with me in all transactions he has never broken his promise."

In Exhibit Ib there occurs the following sentence:—"When I arrived at Hongkong I saw Li Sui Shek. The \$20,000 worth of share money seemed to be safely relied on, but the remuneration is unfortunately too much, and on this account nothing has been agreed to."

An inference which perhaps may fairly be drawn from this letter or these parts of letters is that the Appellant was more interested in the starting and working of the Farm than appears in the evidence. But at any rate there can be no doubt that the Appellant and Tso Cheong were anxious that the Fu Shun Tong should deposit with the Kwong Shing Lung the sum of \$10,000. In the case of \$6,000 of this amount the date of repayment was to be fixed, while in the case of the balance of \$4,000, which was to go on loan to the Appellant, the date of repayment was to be left open, in reliance upon the integrity of the Appellant. This request for a loan, contained in Exhibit Ia, although not complied with *modo et forma*, certainly lends probability to the statement of the Respondent that within a few weeks afterwards the Fu Shun Tong lent to the Appellant at different dates the sum of taels 4,000. But, as if to illustrate the curiously involved character of this case, in this very document—Exhibit Ia—there is a suggestion that the Appellant will not only repay the amount borrowed but also give some help to the Fu Shun Tong.

I pass to the consideration of evidence of crucial importance in the case, namely, the entries relating to these transactions which are contained in the books tendered in evidence by the Respondent as belonging to the Fu Shun Tong. These books are three in number and are described as follows:—

Exhibit F

Ping San year (Kwongsui 22nd year)
Payment of money book
Kept by Fu Shun Tong
7th March.

Exhibit M

Ping San year (Kwongsui 22nd year)
outer counter
Chief book of receipts and payments
(chopped) Fu Shun Tong.

Exhibit N

Ping San } years.
Ting Yan }
Chief book of receipts and payments
(chopped) inner counter
Fu Shun Tong.

With regard to the latter two of these books it is alleged on behalf of the Appellant that they have been fabricated for the purposes of this case, but the first is admitted to be a genuine book of the Fu Shun Tong. It seems to be a rough memorandum book of moneys paid out, commencing on the 23rd December, 1896, and ending on the 2nd March, 1897. It contains two entries, in parallel and adjoining columns, relating to the matters in dispute. These entries are as follows:—

12th Moon

21st day. Paid

Shiu Ching received foreign moneys
Tael 2,160 at 9.9.75.

This money (?) paid through the Shiu Fung to and received by Kwong Mi Un.
Squared up.

23rd day. Paid on loan

\$2,000 in Bank notes Li Siu Shek's hand obtained.

The two dates here given correspond to the 23rd and 25th January, 1897. The Appellant admitted that on those dates he received from the Respondent \$3,000 (=taels 2,160) and \$2,000 (=taels 1,440) respectively—the first sum by remittance and the second in person. It is clear then that these two entries have reference to actual pecuniary dealings between the Fu Shun Tong and the Appellant. But there was a direct conflict as to the nature of these dealings. The Respondent alleged that they consisted in loans of money by the Fu Shun Tong to the Appellant, while the Appellant asserted that they were repayments to him of money borrowed by the Fu Shun Tong from him. Do the form and wording of the entries help us to say who

is in the right? With regard to the first entry, that relating to the \$3,000, I think that its wording is consistent with the amount being a loan or a repayment of a loan, but that it leans somewhat to the former hypothesis. The greater number of items in the book consist of sums paid to the Wing U I and other firms and persons, and the form of the entries is similar to that of the one now under consideration. But there are half a dozen entries in which the wording is "Paid to so and so to receive back so much," and there is generally an item of interest following that entry. The use in other cases of such a form, which is more appropriate to the repayment of a loan, goes to show that the entry with which we are now dealing does not relate to a repayment but to an original payment of money.

With regard to the second entry, that relating to the \$2,000, there is no doubt of its meaning as it stands. The money is expressly stated to have been paid to and received by the Appellant as a loan. But the matter does not rest here. For the Appellant, while admitting that his name as appearing in the entry was signed by himself, said that the character which is translated "on loan" has been added since he signed his name and also that the character which he wrote after his name signifying "received" has been altered to one signifying "taken" or "obtained." He admitted, however, that these two characters bore the same meaning. It is very difficult to form an opinion on the question whether these alleged alterations have been made in the entry; so far as I can judge, I should say they had not, but at the same time it must be conceded that from the position of the characters the alterations may very easily have been made. If the entry stands as it was originally written, then it is an exceedingly strong piece of evidence against the Appellant; if on the other hand the entry has been altered in the manner alleged, then the observations just made with respect to the first entry apply to the second also, that is, the wording does not favour the idea of a repayment.

With regard to the outer and inner counter books whose genuineness is impeached on behalf of the Appellant, I have considered carefully the grounds on which they were challenged and have come to the conclusion that these grounds were not satisfactorily made out and that the books should be accepted as genuine. This being so, the two entries in Exhibit F to which I have just been referring are reproduced in Exhibit M—the outer counter book—in the following form:—

12th moon.

21st day. Paid Si Siu Shek on loan per Tso's hand at 9.9.75 \$3,000...taels 2,160

This amount remitted by the Shiu Ching Bank, Canton, to Shiu Fung, Hongkong, for payment to Kwong Mi Un:

23rd day. Paid Li Siu Shek on loan in Bank notes \$2,000 at 7.2...taels 1,440
Personal receipt endorsed in book.

There are two other entries in this book which were referred to in evidence but which do not appear in Exhibit F. The reason given by the Respondent for their non-appearance in that book was that the amounts in question were too small. The entries are as follows:—

12th Moon.

18th day. Paid Li Siu Shek on temporary loan per Tso's hand at 9.9.5...taels 200

21st day. Paid Li Siu Shek on temporary loan per Tso's hand at 9.9.5...taels 200

The Appellant admitted that he received these two sums on the dates mentioned from the Fu Shun Tong through the Respondent, but he said they were received as repayment in part of the taels 4,000. In Exhibit N—the inner counter book—there are entries relating to these sums of taels 200, taels 200, \$3,000, and \$2,000 which correspond in substance with the entries in Exhibit M.

It will be seen that my opinion is that the documentary evidence, taken as a whole, materially corroborates the statements made by and on behalf of the Respondent. It does not appear to be necessary to discuss the alleged taking to the Wing U I of the money sent by the Appellant, for, if it was so taken, the transaction was probably a piece of chicanery on the part of Tso Cheong which does not affect the real issues in the case.

It was urged by Mr. Francis that the Fu Shun Tong could not have lent the money to the Appellant because they had no money to lend, being indeed notoriously impecunious from the commencement to the end of their short career. But while it is true that they were much pressed with and were ultimately unable to satisfy the claims on them of the Canton authorities and of the prize-winners, it is equally true that they had the handling of large sums of money. Indeed, it may be mentioned that, at the very time when these loans are said to have been made by them to the Appellant, Tso Cheong deposited with the National Bank of China on their behalf the sum of \$8,000. If therefore there was money which could be used for the purpose, there would be nothing strange or unreasonable in one of the principal partners in the Tong securing a loan from it for his friend.

The following observations may not be without pertinence. The two sums of \$3,000 and \$2,000 were paid by the Fu Shun Tong to the Appellant on the 23rd and 25th January, 1897. The Appellant says they were paid in part repayment of a loan of taels 4,000 made by him to the Tong; the Respondent says they were paid as loans from the Tong to the Appellant. If we take the former hypothesis, it is certainly a curious coincidence that these exact sums should, on the 26th February and the 1st March, 1897, have been paid by the Appellant to Fu Shun Tong as fresh loans, while, if we take the latter hypothesis, there is nothing at all curious about the transaction—it is merely the repayment of two loans in the amounts and the order in which they were made.

In cross-examination the Appellant said that he drew \$4,000, part of the taels 4,000 which he lent to the Fu Shun Tong, from one of the shops with which he was connected, but he was unable to produce any book showing an entry to that effect. He did, however, produce a book from one of his shops which showed that he drew from that shop \$2,000, part of the \$3,000 paid by him to the Fu Shun Tong on the 26th February, 1897, and also the \$2,000 paid by him to the Tong on the 1st March, 1897.

With regard to the promissory notes put forward by the Appellant—Exhibits A and B—which, as I have already said, are inseparably connected with the question of the loans, I do not propose to state in detail the points which have occurred to me in connexion with my examination of them. It must suffice for me to say that, as the result of that examination, I have arrived at the same conclusion as the Judge in the Court below, namely, that the notes are not genuine. This conclusion applies also to the promissory note—Exhibit R—produced in aid of the Appellant's notes by the witness Li Tsat.

The consequence of these views is that I am of opinion that the Appellant has failed to establish his contention that he lent the two sums in question or either of them to the Fu Shun Tong. In view of this finding it becomes unnecessary to express any opinion on the question whether the Respondent was a partner of the Tong.

I think the judgment of the Court below was right and should be affirmed and this appeal be dismissed, with costs.

Mr. Justice Wise concurred.

August 17th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE).

AN LOONG V. LUM YUNG HING.

Mr. Slade (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings), who appeared for plaintiff, said that in this suit, which was undefended, His Lordship had given him leave to proceed *ex parte* by an order dated 23rd July, 1898. The action was for damages for breach of contract in the sale and delivery of 300 flasks of quicksilver. The goods were to have arrived within 50 days of the signing of the contract, and delivery was to have been taken within 30 days after that. The goods were not delivered on the 79th day—that was 29 days after the goods arrived—and this writ was issued.

Plaintiff said he was a contractor and resided at 282, Queen's Road West, defendant being a broker. He produced the contracts, and said the value of the 300 flasks of quicksilver was \$21,642.18. When he asked for delivery defendant put him off. The difference between the contract price of the quicksilver and the market price on the day delivery should have been made was \$2,826.57. Defendant had left the colony, and was at present at Amoy.

The broker through whom the contracts were entered into also gave evidence.

Judgment was given for plaintiff for \$2,826.57 with costs.

Defendant did not appear.

August 18th.

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE SIR JOHN CARRINGTON (CHIEF JUSTICE.)

THE STABBING ON BOARD THE "HAITAN."

Yung Kwai Yung was charged with maliciously wounding Wong Ti, Chan Yau, and Lam Pan on board the *Haitan* in Victoria Harbour on July 22nd. He pleaded not guilty.

The jury was composed of Messrs. F. C. C. Georg, C. C. Barlow, D. S. Gubbay, Ho Yuet Cho, F. J. V. Ribeiro, J. S. Perry, and F. L. Xavier.

The Attorney-General (instructed by Mr. H. L. Dennys), in opening the case for the prosecution, said prisoner stood charged before them on three counts. Each of these counts dealt with a separate stab, though the whole matter arose out of the same transaction. It seemed that prosecutors, who were Amoy men, arrived in Hongkong from Singapore on July 20th and went to a boarding house. They stayed there two days, and bought a ticket from the boarding house keeper for a particular cabin on the *Haitan*, which was leaving for Amoy on the 22nd July, the ticket being handed to Chan Yau. They went on board, Wong Ti and Lam Pan, each of whom was carrying some luggage, being behind Chan Yau. The last named went down to the cabin for which they had taken a ticket and found prisoner there. Chan Yau told him to go out of the cabin, but as prisoner spoke the Mandarin dialect he probably did not understand it. At any rate he did not go out and Chan Yau pushed him out. Blows were struck and then prisoner seized a knife and stabbed Chan Yau in several places, including the right arm and the right leg. Chan Yau called out "save life," and his two friends came on the scene. Before they could say or do anything prisoner rushed at them and stabbed them both, inflicting a terrible wound on Wong Ti on the right side of the abdomen. Prisoner then, as if he had gone mad, proceeded to stab himself. The police were called on the scene, and the whole four were taken to the Government Civil Hospital.

Dr. Bell, assistant superintendent at the Government Civil Hospital, gave evidence as to the condition of the men when they were admitted into the Hospital. He said Wong Ti was suffering from a very dangerous wound—one which might have caused death and probably would have done had it not been properly treated.

Other evidence was given.

Prisoner was sentenced to 12 months' hard labour on the first count and to eight months on each of the other two.

ASSAULT.

Mok Po was sentenced to six months and three months for (1) occasioning bodily harm and (2) assault, prosecutor being a woman.

DISCHARGED ON PROCLAMATION.

Thomas Donald, who had been committed for trial in respect of an unnatural offence, was discharged by proclamation, no information having been filed against him.

12th August.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. JUSTICE WISE (PUISNE JUDGE.)

HOLDSWORTH V. GORDON.

In this case C. Holdsworth sued A. G. Gordon for the sum of \$30, the value of a case

of champagne alleged to have been shipped in one of defendant's launches.

Plaintiff said he purposed presenting the wine to a gentleman and placed it on the launch for transport. Shortly afterwards he was arrested for debt and when liberated could find no trace of it. His coxswain saw several people remove the liquor from the launch.

Mr. Justice Wise said this was a case of larceny for the Police Court.

Plaintiff said the police had referred him to the Supreme Court.

Mr. Justice Wise dismissed the case, and advised plaintiff to see the police again.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At the monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, the 9th August. Present: Messrs. R. M. Gray (Chairman), Herbert Smith (Vice-Chairman), A. Haupt, J. J. Bell-Irving, T. Jackson, A. McConachie, H. A. Ritchie, N. A. Siebs, T. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary.)

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting (held on the 13th July) were read and confirmed.

LOCAL BANK NOTE ISSUE.

A letter having, pursuant to the resolution passed at the last meeting of Committee, been addressed to the Government enclosing extract from the minutes on the question of the issue of Bank notes in the colony.

Read reply, dated 16th July, from the Acting Colonial Secretary, stating that the extract would be forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

It was generally considered that the outcome of the inquiry into the position of the Bank Note Issue and the subsequent Ordinance passed by Government were satisfactory.

THE KOWLOON EXTENSION CONVENTION.

The questions involved in the stipulations, under the Convention of the 9th June, and possible further proposals were discussed at some length, but it was decided for the present not to publish the proceedings.

THE WORKING OF THE POST OFFICE.

Read despatch from the Acting Colonial Secretary, dated 14th July, in reply to the Chamber's letter of the 9th idem, calling attention to the late delivery of the previous inward French mail, and enclosing for the information of the Chamber copies of reports from the Postmaster-General.

While the Committee could not regard the explanation given as satisfactory, they hope that some improvement would be apparent in the working of the Post Office in future.

QUARANTINE.

A letter having been addressed to the Government on the 14th July, suggesting that, as plague had then practically ceased to exist, clean bills of health might be granted, and asking that, in the event of this being done, the Straits Government might be advised by telegraph of the fact.

A reply was received on the 16th, stating that the issue of clean bills of health to vessels clearing from Hongkong had already been authorised, and that the Straits Government had been so informed by letter.

On the 22nd July a letter was received from Government, transmitting copy of a further letter from the Bengal Government with enclosures stating that instructions had been given to enforce quarantine against vessels arriving from Amoy and Swatow.

Read letter just received from the Government informing Chamber of receipt of a telegram from the Straits Government to the effect that quarantine against Hongkong had been withdrawn.

INTERNATIONAL MINING AND INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION AT COOLGARDIE.

Read letter from Secretary to the International Exhibition of Western Australia, to be held at Coolgardie in 1899, setting forth the objects and scope of the project and expressing the hope that the Chamber will assist by inducing exhibitors to visit the Exhibition or send specimens of the products of the colony.

THE TRADE MARKS REGISTRATION (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE.

The Chairman said—This Ordinance has been read a first and second time at two consecutive meetings of the Legislative Council without giving the public much time to examine its provisions.

Mr. Whitehead—The third reading will take place on Monday next, the 15th inst. At present the Bill is in Committee, and it is not too late to propose amendments.

The Chairman—The measure seems a good one and something of the sort was wanted. I have discussed it with several who are interested in the subject, and think that there may be some points for consideration. If any members of the Committee or others would send in any suggestions to the Secretary, doubtless the member for the Chamber would take the question up.

After some discussion,

Mr. Whitehead said he should be pleased to do what was necessary, but he must be in possession of what was required before Saturday in order to communicate with the Attorney-General before the meeting on Monday.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION OF 1900.

Read letter from Acting Colonial Secretary (received at meeting) announcing that the Government had again been approached on the subject of this colony being represented at the above exhibition, and inquiring whether the Chamber was in a position to take an active part in inducing exhibitors to come forward.

It was decided to publish the papers, but to express inability to actively push the matter.

(Correspondence.)

THE WORKING OF THE POST OFFICE.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 14th July, 1898.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 9th instant, calling attention to the late delivery of the last inward French mail, I am directed to transmit for the information of the Chamber of Commerce copy of reports by the Postmaster-General.

While recognising that the exceptionally heavy work on the 5th instant to some extent explains the delay which occurred, the Officer Administering the Government has given instructions to the Postmaster-General which it is hoped may prevent a recurrence of the state of affairs complained of.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

R. Chatterton Wilcox, Esq., Secretary, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

REPORT.

The French mail was received in the office at 6.30 a.m. and the work of sorting was at once proceeded with.

Mails from Canton, Shanghai, Coast Ports (two steamers), Japan, Foochow, and Calcutta were also received between 7 and 10 a.m. and were with the exception of the Canton mail, sorted with the French mail.

The Canton mail was written up and sent out at 8 a.m.

The sorting of the above was completed at 8.4 and at 8.50 the sorting of newspapers was commenced, but had to be soon abandoned to allow the outgoing mail per *Doric* to be dealt with.

The posting for that mail was exceedingly heavy and the staff was short of two officers, while three of those present (Chinese) proved almost useless, and accordingly the mails for the *Doric* were not ready for despatch till 12.45 a.m.

The mail notice had then to be prepared.

The European mail for Shanghai had to be got ready as the *Melbourne* was leaving at 4 p.m., and mails for Japan had to be prepared for the same steamer.

Besides these the mails had to be got ready for Swatow, Amoy, and Foochow per *Thales*, leaving at 5 p.m., while at the same time mails had to be closed for Ningpo, Chefoo, and Tientsin, so that the whole of the forward correspondence had to be sorted in addition to that posted locally: so that it was past 4 p.m. before the bags for the French steamer could leave the office.

The sorting of the papers was then proceeded with and they were ready at 6.30 p.m., but in the meantime mails for Canton, Hoihow,

Haiphong, Kobe, and Newchwang had to be prepared.

I am satisfied from frequent personal inspection of the work during the day in question that in the circumstances the papers were delivered as expeditiously as possible.

The circumstances are nearly the same as those in the case reported upon in C.S.O.—with the addition that the amount of correspondence dealt with in the current has increased by at least 30 per cent.

I need hardly remind you that it has long been settled that the Post Office is sadly in need of adequate accommodation, and I think that in the circumstances the staff did their work well, or at least as well as they could on a day when probably there was more work to be got through than on any other day in the existence of the colony.

Measures for increasing the accommodation will have to be taken ere long in view of the fact that according to the latest scheme a complete new Post Office cannot be expected for at least four years.

I trust that the above explanation will be deemed by His Excellency to be sufficient; if not, might I venture to suggest a personal inspection from time to time to satisfy the Government that my contention regarding accommodation is correct.

A. M. THOMSON, P.M.G.

11th July, 1898.

Addendum:—

Enclosure to Chamber of Commerce letter.

1.—Report by Superintendent of Registration Branch attached showing work done.

The postmen might have been delayed rather later than usual in the General Branch on account of the reasons set forth in report and as they had a good deal to take out it would be some time before they accomplished their rounds.

2.—Dealt with above.

3.—Only one instance has come to my notice, dealt with in Superintendent's report.

4.—No cases were brought to my notice. Mail was ready with the French mail. It is impossible for me to do anything in re such complaints (3) and (4) unless Articles 44-46 of the Postal Guide are complied with. The public generally give no assistance to this department; the writing of abstract complaints often couched in offensive terms is of no help.

In conclusion, I quite agree with the Chamber in (2) of their letter, but the first thing to do is to get a place to put the staff in.

The only places that occur to me are the rooms generally occupied by the Attorney-General and Crown Solicitor, or the ground floor of the Club opposite.

The latter would be more convenient in many ways.

I must again urge upon Government that the day in question was one of maximum pressure such as occurs only once in a year or two, and if the staff is to be sufficient for such extraordinary occasions it would mean very easy work the majority of the days of the year.

At the same time I must say that the clerks in the Post Office are at present the most hard-worked of any in Government Departments.

A. M. THOMSON,
P.M.G.

12th July, 1898.

Registration Branch,
General Post Office,
Hongkong, 12th July, 1898.

Sir,—The mails leaving on the morning of the 5th instant were as follows:—

Swatow	}	9.30 a.m.
Amoy		
Foochow		
Singapore		
Penang	}	10 a.m.
Calcutta		
American Mail	12 noon.

The registered bags ex s.s. *Melbourne* were delivered on this office between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. and the Hongkong registered letters were handed out to the postman at 2 p.m. I consider that this delay in dealing with the mail was due not only to the amount of mails leaving but to the fact that I had three new clerks, two of whom had only been in this office a little over two weeks, and the other a little over two months.

The registered letter referred to by Mr. Dalrymple in the *Daily Press* of the 8th (7th?) instant was handed out to the postman at 2 p.m., but as he had a large number of ordinary letters as well as registered letters to deliver and had the whole lot to sort and arrange previous to going out on his rounds it was a few minutes past 4 p.m. before he reached Mr. Dalrymple's office, only to find the office closed.

The letter was taken out at 8 a.m. the following morning but again found the office closed; at 10 a.m. the postman had the newspapers by the previous day's mail to deliver as well as his letters and on that account it was nearly 11.30 a.m. before he reached Mr. Dalrymple's office.—I remain, etc.,

A. BARRON,

Supt. Registration Branch.

To the Hon. A. M. Thomson, Postmaster General.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN EXHIBITION.

Coolgardie, Western Australia,
June 18th, 1898.

To the President, Chamber of Commerce, Hongkong.

Dear Sir,—I am directed by the Commissioners of the Western Australian International Mining and Industrial Exhibition to notify to you (1) That it has been decided to hold an Exhibition in Coolgardie, the principal City of the Goldfields of Western Australia, in March, 1899.

(2) That the Government of Western Australia has been pleased to recognise the undertaking, and that it has substantially supported it by granting to the Commissioners 15 acres of land in a central position as well as subsidising it by a liberal vote of money.

(3) In addition to the Government subsidy, the Town Council has subscribed liberally in order to assist in the erection of the permanent main building which will remain as a School of Mines and Museum.

(4) Besides the main building well devised and roomy annexes of wood and iron are being erected to receive the exhibits.

(5) The whole of the buildings have been declared a Government bonded warehouse wherein exhibits will be received free from Customs duty. The Government have also granted free trainage from the port of Fremantle in to the annexes by means of a railway siding erected for that special purpose.

(6) By same mail I am directed to forward to you schedules, plans, and other documents, relating to this Exhibition. The Commissioners hope that you will cause these to be laid officially before your Chamber of Commerce, or any other public bodies, likely to further the interest of the W. A. Exhibition, by inducing exhibitors to come, or to send specimens of the products of your country.

(7) In order to give greater effect to the above the Commissioners pray that a special commission may be appointed, as it is usually done, for such exhibitions.

There is no doubt that the exhibition to be held in Coolgardie in 1899 will offer an excellent opportunity to open a profitable market for both products and manufactures.—I have the honour to be, your obedient servant,

G. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 10th August, 1898.

Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 18th June, announcing that it has been decided to hold an exhibition in Coolgardie in March, 1899, and giving particulars of the buildings and the arrangements being made with regard to reception of exhibits, &c.

On behalf of the Committee, I beg to thank you for the compliment paid to this Chamber in requesting the appointment of a Commission to your Exhibition, but the great intervening distance and the absence of residents with leisure to give to such an object preclude acceptance of such an invitation. The plans and schedules shall, on arrival, be placed on exhibit in the Chamber Rooms for public inspection.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

R. M. GRAY,
Chairman.

To G. Williams, Esq., Secretary, International Exhibition, Coolgardie, Western Australia.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 9th August, 1898.

Sir,—With reference to Mr. Lockhart's letter No. 1756 of the 11th November, 1896 and to your reply thereto of the 24th idem, I am directed to state that this Government has been again approached on the subject of this colony being represented at the Paris Exhibition in 1900.

You will doubtless recollect that the advertisements published in the local newspapers in December, 1896, requesting intending exhibitors to communicate with this office met with no response.

It is intended to advertise again in the local press in the same sense, and I am to enquire whether the Chamber of Commerce is in a position to take an active part in inducing exhibitors to come forward.

The space to be allotted to the Crown colonies is 5,500 square feet in the colonial building and 3,600 square feet in the main building, and the cost of erecting those buildings is estimated respectively at 10s. and 5s. per square foot, on which rates the charges made to the several colonies taking part in the exhibition will probably be based exclusive of charges on account of freight, insurance, show-cases, remuneration of officers or agents, installation, and attendance.

I shall be glad to receive a reply to this letter at the earliest date possible.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,

Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary, Chamber of Commerce.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
Hongkong, 10th August, 1898.

Sir,—I beg leave to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 9th inst. announcing that the Government has again been approached on the subject of this colony being represented at the Paris Exhibition of 1900, and inquiring whether this Chamber is in a position to take an active part in inducing exhibitors to come forward.

In reply, I am instructed to say that while the Committee would be glad to see the colony represented at the Paris Exhibition, they are not prepared to take active steps to induce exhibitors to come forward. They propose, however, publishing your despatch for the information of intending exhibitors and others to whom the information it contains may be useful.—I have the honour to be, sir, your most obedient servant,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

Hon. T. Sercombe Smith, Acting Colonial Secretary.

INLAND NAVIGATION.

THE AMENDED RULES.

Hongkong, 16th August.

We understand that the amended rules for inland navigation came into force yesterday and that British steamers plying on the West River have been notified that they are at liberty to proceed by any channel they like and to stop at any port *en route*.

THE UNITED STATES COMMERCIAL MISSION TO CHINA.

MR. GREEN IN HONGKONG.

Yesterday we had the pleasure of an interview with Mr. Cassius A. Green, one of the United States Commission to China under the direction of the Philadelphia Commercial Museum, of which institution Mr. Green is the Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Information. The other members of the Commission are Dr. Gustave Niederlein, Chief of the Scientific Department of the Philadelphia Museums, and Mr. Sheridan P. Read, recently Consul of the United States at Tientsin. Dr. Niederlein and Mr. Read intend to make tours in the interior of China, which will occupy several months, while Mr. Green, having studied the conditions of trade at Shanghai and Hongkong, the two principal gateways of trade into China, intends to go to Singapore and thence to Java and Australia. The Philippines are not included in the present

scheme, but probably another Commission will be sent out subsequently to deal with that country. The constitution of the Philadelphia Commercial Museum and the objects of the present Commission have been before the public a good deal of late, but it may be useful to repeat that the Museum has attached to it a bureau of information, which is engaged in the collection and collation of commercial information from all parts of the world and its dissemination to all who desire to receive it. Mr. Green when at home has working under him a staff of a hundred and twenty, whose whole time is engaged in going through Consular reports, Chamber of Commerce circulars, etc., etc., and tabulating and indexing the information they contain, so that any one desiring information on any particular point can at once be placed in possession of all that is known about it. In the States there are nine hundred merchants, manufacturers, and traders, scattered over twenty-one states, who are regularly in receipt of circulars relating to their own special branch of business, and one of the aims of the institution is to make its connections worldwide, not only as regards the collection of information, but also its dissemination.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation was held in the City Hall on Saturday, 13th August, at noon for the purpose of receiving the report of the Court of Directors together with a statement of account to 30th June, 1898. The Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving presided, and there were also present, Messrs. R. M. Gray, D. Gubbay, A. Haupt, A. J. Raymond, A. McConachie, P. Sachse, R. Shewan, N. A. Siebs (Directors); Thos. Jackson (Chief Manager), Hon. C. P. Chater, Messrs. H. N. Mody, V. A. C. Hawkins, A. Hancock, J. C. Peter, A. Coutts, F. N. Firth, R. T. Wright, C. W. May, K. A. Chinoy, G. Stewart, C. J. Gonsalves, Yan Win Chuen, J. H. Lewis, S. S. Benjamin, P. Jordan, C. S. Sharp, E. Georg, J. Y. V. Vernon, S. G. Bird, F. Smyth, E. S. Wheeler, R. K. Leigh, J. D. Hutchison, Shun Kau Sui, Ho Fook, Major Gawne, D. Gillies, G. Murray Bain, Captain Tillett, W. T. Bamsey, D. D. Guzdoor, J. R. Michael, R. C. Wilcox, Joseph P. Morris, J. M. Alves, A. P. Stokes, E. D. Sanders, C. H. Rogge, G. C. Cox, E. S. Kelly, G. H. Medhurst.

The CHIEF MANAGER read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN then read the report of the Court of Directors.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, the Directors have the pleasure of laying before you on the present occasion a record report, enabling them to pay the usual dividend of £1 5s. per share, place one million of dollars to reserve fund, write \$250,000 off property account, and carry forward \$376,000 odd to new profit and loss account. These figures are the outcome of an unusually prosperous half-year when almost no losses were incurred and when everything went well with us at the head office and at all the branches. Money was in strong demand, and exchange banking afforded unusual opportunities for making money, of which this bank took full advantage. (Applause.) We have left our London investments unchanged with the exception of a sale of £70,000 Indian 2½ per cent. sterling loan, which we intend replacing when a favourable opportunity arises. During the half-year we participated in the issue of a Chinese loan for £16,000,000 on joint account with our German friends. (Applause.) Our share of the profit on the transaction represents a very considerable sum—(applause)—and is unappropriated, as well as the profit on the previous loan referred to on former occasions. (Applause.) It is the intention of the directors to deal with both sums at the end of the present year. The idea the directors have in view is to raise the reserve to ten millions of dollars, and to have it all invested in first-class securities standing at an exchange of 2/- say £1,000,000, said securities to be written down well under their market value as is the case with the securities we at present hold, and in accordance with the precedent set us by home Banks. We

should then be independent of silver, whatever the future might have in store for it. We would virtually have two capitals, one, our ordinary capital, say \$10,000,000 in silver, the other our reserve of ten millions of dollars at 2/- say £1,000,000 in gold. This may appear like counting the chickens before they are hatched. Not so; we have already funds in hand to effect the desired object. (Applause.) There is another item, viz., our property account, which in times of prosperity ought to have particular attention paid to it. In addition to the usual percentage we have been and are in the habit of writing off from half-year to half-year we have thought it wise to write off \$250,000. Property is the one unproductive account in our books, and the nearer it approaches to zero the better will we be pleased. I hope that at the end of the year this account will receive further attention at our hands. In accordance with an Ordinance of the Hongkong Government, No. 21 of 1882, the Bank was authorised to issue notes to the extent of its paid-up capital, say ten million of dollars, against which we keep first-class securities with the Bank of England in the name of the Crown Agents for the Colonies for fully one-third of our authorised issue, and by Ordinance we are compelled also to keep at least one-third in bullion at the various places of issue. Up to recently, with occasional exceptions, this limit has hitherto been sufficient for the ordinary requirements of the public in Hongkong and the Straits Settlements, but from January of this year the limit of ten millions has proved insufficient, and very reluctantly we had to exceed our limits from January to May. To get the circulation within prescribed limits by the 30th June caused very serious inconvenience to trade in this colony and its surrounding centres. On the gravity of the matter being placed before the Government of this colony, with the sanction of the Secretary of State for the Colonies an Ordinance was passed on the 28th July, 1898, amending Ordinance 21 of 1882 as follows:—"Bills and notes of the Company payable to bearer on demand may be issued and be in actual circulation to an amount in excess of the capital of the Company actually paid up, provided that there shall be previously kept at the head office of the Company in Hongkong to the satisfaction of the Colonial Secretary and Colonial Treasurer an amount of coin and bullion to the whole value of such excess issue actually in circulation." Our thanks are due to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and to His Excellency the Administrator of this colony for so promptly acceding to our request for an elastic note circulation, instead of a fixed limit, which has recently caused such serious inconvenience and loss to all concerned. I may remark that the proposal to keep an amount of coin or bullion equal to the whole value of our excess issue emanated from us. We were so anxious to have the matter settled at once that we put forward our proposal on such liberal lines that we were convinced it would be acceded to. The state of affairs in the Philippines, where the bank has considerable interests, has been a source of anxiety to us of late. I am glad to say that we do not anticipate any loss whatever there. I hope that peace will soon be restored and that business may speedily flourish in those most fertile islands. To refer for a moment to the items in the balance sheet, I wish to point out that current accounts in silver have increased by \$3,909,973.15 during the half-year, while fixed deposits in silver have decreased by \$1,178,237.17. Current accounts in gold have increased by £4,749,759 8s. 8d. owing to the large amount of Chinese Government money we held on the 30th April when our London half-year closes. Our cash in hand and bills discounted, loans, and credits, also show an increase from the same cause; in the latter instance we had employed in liquid advances a considerable portion of the funds temporarily in our possession. In the former case the funds not so employed were held in cash. Fixed deposits in gold show a slight decrease of £5,856 12s. 7d. Bills payable show a decrease of \$1,457,000.44, while bills receivable show an increase of \$6,445,185.65, the latter a very satisfactory item, showing the larger volume of exchange business transacted. The recent industrial development in Shanghai having caused money to be in good demand there, other banks raised their rates

for fixed deposits from four to five per cent. and we deemed it necessary to act similarly. A more serious matter was the raising of the rate for fixed deposits in London from 3½ to 4 per cent. At the time it looked as if there was going to be a continuance of dear money in London and on the Continent. We were afraid of deposits leaving us and our profitable outward business being checked. It we find that we are getting too much money at 4 per cent. we can easily revert to 3½ per cent. for new money later on. In conclusion, gentlemen, I have to remark at the prosperous and sound position in which this bank now stands reflects the greatest credit upon the far-sighted and conscientious management of our Chief Manager, Mr. Jackson, who has received valuable co-operation from the staff generally. (Applause.) Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be happy to answer any questions.

No questions were asked, and the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. WHEELER said—I have much pleasure in seconding the proposal. The best report ever presented to the proprietors does not need many words to ensure its adoption by them. Good as the report is, however, the information that the chairman has just given us is even better. The report shows that the bank is now in a position of great strength, and the proposal to keep the reserve fund of 10 million dollars, or say one million sterling, invested in sterling securities, is the one thing desirable to make that strength more absolute. With our capital of 10 millions in silver and our reserve fund of 10 millions in gold we shall not only be independent of silver, but I think the bank's credit in Europe must be largely strengthened. It is very pleasant to hear that in addition to the handsome profits which you have put before us there is still the considerable profit on two Chinese loans which it is proposed to deal with at the end of this year, so that hopes are raised that ere long it may be possible while still adding to the strength of the bank's position to add to the usual dividend an occasional bonus. (Applause.)

Carried.

Mr. LEIGH—I have much pleasure in proposing the confirmation of the appointment of Messrs. A. McConachie and P. Sachse as Directors.

Mr. HUTCHISON seconded.

Carried.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, I have to thank you for your attendance. That concludes the business of the meeting. Dividend warrants will be sent out on Monday.

HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders in the above company was held on Thursday at noon. Mr. E. Osborne (Chairman) presided, and there were also present: Messrs R. C. Wilcox, W. Parfitt (directors), C. Mooney (secretary), J. R. Michael, Captain Clarke, W. H. Potts, J. C. Peter, G. C. Cox, W. K. Low, R. S. Philpott, Ho Tung, Lo Cheung Shui, Leung Kit Shan, Ip Che Fong, Ho Yau Nam, Chan Chan Nam, Tai Tak, and Wong Kam Fok.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN—With your permission we will accept the report and accounts as read. The profits which have been realised on the six months covered by the report are the largest for any single half year in the company's history; and the directors have to congratulate you on their being able to recommend a fairly substantial dividend after writing off an adequate sum from perishable property and allowing for a balance to be carried forward that will ensure the second half year's dividend being at least equal to the first. It may interest you to know, gentlemen, as showing the recuperative power of your business, that since the year 1894—a year that proved to be the turning point between ruin or success—you have invested \$63,000 in new furniture and furnishing accessories, you have carried out repairs and improvements to your building to the extent of \$32,000, and including the present half year you will have written down your assets by \$47,000, a total of \$142,000, equal to about

one-third of your capital; and the whole of this money, gentlemen, has come entirely out of profits. In place of the bankruptcy that stared you in the face five years ago, you possess greatly improved assets, a valuable good will, and a comfortable balance at the bank. The business of the hotel during the winter season was distinctly good, and more than usually profitable; for in consequence of the depreciation of the dollar we were in a position to raise the charges to the travelling public without their feeling it. In former years the tourist was able for his golden sovereign to command only \$5 worth of accommodation; to-day he is in the fortunate position of getting \$10 worth for the same expenditure. This unfortunately cuts both ways, however, as is evidenced by the heavy increase in the cost of our home purchases. Since our last meeting we have invested in steam washing machinery, which enables us to get the washing done on the premises at considerably less cost than the local dhobie would charge, and with the additional advantage of ensured cleanliness. We have also erected a steam punkah puller—a great improvement upon the uncertain energies of the average punkah coolie. In the near future the whole building, both inside and out, will undergo a thorough overhaul and painting, and we hope by next season the hotel will present a much smarter appearance than it does to-day. But whilst providing thus for outward show, we have not been unmindful of internal needs in the shape of up-to-date furnishing and other details which do so much for the comfort of guests and the good name of a hotel. I mention this because it is well shareholders should realise that, for the successful conduct of their business, it is absolutely necessary there should be a ceaseless and often heavy expenditure on improvements. People are prepared to pay for comfort, and it behoves us, therefore, whilst keeping a vigilant check upon extravagance and waste, to stop at no reasonable expenditure that will yield a good return. Regarding the prospects of the present half year, the war in the Philippines has sent us a number of visitors whose contributions will enable us to tide over the lean summer months and turn what has hitherto been a period of loss into one of moderate profit. Apart from this windfall, however, you will be pleased to learn that there seems every prospect in the future of the hotel reaping the benefit of that improved reputation which I think even our most hostile and captious critics will concede it is entitled to. If any gentleman has any questions to ask I shall be glad to answer them.

There being no questions,

The CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented.

Mr. G. C. Cox—I have much pleasure in seconding that, Mr. Chairman. No doubt the shareholders must all have listened with much gratification to the remarks you have been able to make this morning, and we are all much indebted to the directors for the success with which they have pulled the hotel through. (Hear, hear.)

The resolution was carried.

On the motion of Mr. HO TUNG, seconded by Mr. PETER, Messrs. E. Osborne and R. C. Wilcox were re-elected directors.

On the motion of Mr. MICHAEL, seconded by Mr. PHILPOT, Messrs. W. H. Potts and W. H. Gaskell were re-elected auditors.

Mr. HO TUNG—Mr. Chairman, I am sure all present must be gratified to learn from your lips the sound position this company has attained, and which is so plainly shown in the excellent report laid before us. Some of those present are not aware, however, as I am aware (having sat on the board myself in the dark days of the company) what an advance has been made. Five years ago, the prospect of any dividend being ever paid by this company seemed very remote, and but for the indefatigable efforts of the present directors it is doubtful, I think, whether such a result would have been reached. The shares at that time might readily have been picked up at from \$7 to \$10; it was a struggle to pay the interest on the loan; nothing had been written off for depreciation; and the balance at credit was nil. Step by step, however, and by rigid economies, by careful attention to the business of the hotel, by prevention of loss by bad debts, by judicious letting of all available premises as shops, offices, &c.,

and by putting a stop to leakages in all departments, the balance on the wrong side was redressed, the hotel was gradually brought into a better condition, its service improved, and the place rendered more attractive as the directors in course of time got command of funds; the stock was overhauled and replenished and the furniture first written down and then added to. Thus, by degrees, the hotel has attained the position it now enjoys, that of second to none in the Far East. All this has been effected, in spite of much discouragement, by untiring attention to details of a kind calculated to try the patience of any business man. Your directors have cheerfully given up most of their spare time to this work, being determined to see the thing through, and they have succeeded. To do this they have been practically managers as well as directors. I know what all this work means, and I am sure that only men in vigorous health could attempt such labours in addition to their ordinary duties. Well, gentlemen, the bad times have fortunately been tided over, shares are now at a premium, and the company is paying a dividend at the rate of 8 per cent per annum with a good chance of a better one to come. I believe all the shareholders will thoroughly agree with me that the time has arrived for some recognition on their part of the efforts of the directors in achieving this result. You will remember that, at the last meeting, I referred to this matter, and then said that I hoped the time would come when I should be able to propose a bonus for the directors. I think, gentlemen, that time has come, and I will now ask the board to summon an extraordinary general meeting of the company for the purpose of submitting to shareholders a resolution authorising the grant to the three existing directors of a substantial bonus in recognition of their services in the past. With regard to the amount of the bonus, I propose to consult some of the principal shareholders. (Hear, hear.)

The CHAIRMAN—On behalf of my co-directors and myself I have to thank you, Mr. Ho Tung and Mr. Cox, for the very flattering comments you have been good enough to pass upon our work. It is exceedingly gratifying to us to know that our efforts have been crowned with a fair measure of success and it is even more gratifying to feel that those efforts are appreciated by the shareholders. (Hear, hear.) We shall be very happy to call the meeting Mr. Ho Tung speaks of at which the subject mentioned by him can be discussed. That is all the business. I thank you for your attendance. The dividend warrants will be out this afternoon and they can be had on application at the secretary's office.

"STAR" FERRY LAUNCH CO. LTD.

The statutory meeting of the "Star" Ferry Launch Co., Ltd., was held on 15th Aug. in the office of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co. Mr. C. S. Sharp presided. The other gentlemen present were:—Messrs E. S. Whealler, A. Haupt (Directors), E. Osborne (Secretary), N. A. Siebs, A. Shelton Hooper, G. Murray Bain, E. Georg, E. W. Terry, J. M. Beck, J. Brownhill, J. A. Plummer, R. C. Wilcox, H. Pinckney, I. P. Madar, Leung Kum Lin, Ng Kan, Chen Ki Tong, Wong Kam-fuk, W. Newton, S. R. Ismail, etc.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, as you are no doubt aware, this is only a formal meeting, called in order to comply with the requirements of the Companies' Ordinances, and the only business we have to transact is to fix the time for holding the company's annual general meeting. The capital was fully subscribed and the various agreements in connection with the formation of the company were adopted and the company commenced operations on the 1st May. There have been various petty troubles which seem inseparable from the transfer of such a business; but these are gradually being got over, and on the whole we are now moving along as smoothly as can be expected. We are inclined to take it as a favourable symptom that our critics are not now so much in evidence in the newspapers as at one time was the case. The new "double ended" is now being constructed by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., and should be completed about October next. We think this addition to the company's fleet should be

welcome to the travelling public and should enable the company to offer its patrons more of an up-to-date service. It is our present intention, when this steamer is ready to take her place on the line, to dispose of the *Morning Star*, which is hardly suitable for modern requirements on such a service. We are arranging for improved wharf accommodation at Kowloon, including protection from the weather to travellers while waiting for the launches, and we hope later on to be able to effect some improvements on the Hongkong side as well. It may interest you to hear that earnings have been well up to estimates so far. The only other business before the meeting is to fix the date of the annual general meeting of the Company. I have to propose that the annual general meetings of the company be held before the 31st July in each year. Our financial year will end on the 30th April, so in mentioning 31st July we are allowing ourselves very ample time for the preparation of the accounts.

Mr. TERRY seconded the resolution.

Carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, unless any members present have any remarks to make, that will complete the business before the meeting.

THE GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The following report has been received from the manager at the Mines:—

Mount Macdonald,

22nd July, 1898.

Great Eastern Mine.—The North Drive is now in 26 feet and south in 2 feet. The reef is 4 feet wide, of which the eastern half carries a lot of fine gold, whilst the western half is composed of quartz and mullock with no gold in it. The gold bearing part taken out will probably yield 14 to 15 dwt. per ton, but we are not yet on the big reef, to do which we would have to drive another 20 feet probably. About 50 feet south of our shaft on the surface the reef is split in two, reforming again into the large lode a little higher up the hill, and we have undoubtedly struck the same formation below, as the reef is dipping north, and since we have not got the footwall yet. The pleasing part about this reef is that it apparently carries more gold at the greater depth than it did at the higher levels, and a very important fact also is the large increase of mineral in the stone, which here at Mount Macdonald means also more gold. The crosscut west is in 37 feet, but I have stopped the work there, most unwillingly though, since we cannot expect anything there under 60 feet.

Zulu Whip Road.—The reef we cut here some time ago has been traced for a good distance up the hill, but we are not going to spend any more money on it just yet, as we can cut it from below or turn our attention to it again later on.

Zulu Main Shaft.—The new contractors started end of last week and they will have the shaft down by five more feet on Saturday, which would bring the shaft down to 148 feet. There is nothing new to report from here. The reef is as strong as ever, and so far this claim promises to become the mainstay of this company. Gold can be seen freely in the stone, but the battery will prove the best test.

Rise and Shine Shaft.—The contractors will start here to-morrow. The present depth is 81 feet from old brace. The last 14 days have been spent in logging up and fixing the whipple. The additional 30 feet should be put down very quickly, as the ground is not too hard and the shaft only small.

Bank of England Shaft is down to 64 feet. Also here the men have been busy logging up and fixing the whipple, and after putting in one more set of timber, the contractors will take charge of this shaft also. In other words, our work will be done now faster and cheaper. There is also nothing new from this reef to report. It remains the same strong body of quartz with a rich footwall. We have about 200 tons at grass.

Caledonian Main Shaft.—The cross cut for the reef is now in 35 feet and 20 feet more should cut it.

Dam.—The rainy weather and the water from the Caledonian shaft have filled two-thirds

of this large reservoir, so that all our fears as to future shortage are allayed.

Battery.—I have let the excavations to the same contractor who made the dam. He is making fair headway. Mr. Hodgkinson writes to-day from Sydney that the first ten head are ready and will be sent up next week. I am busy getting tenders for the battery shed.

Office.—We are laying the foundation piles.

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

The annual general meeting was held on the 9th August, when the officers for the season 1898-9 were elected.

General Committee:—Commodore, Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G.; Vice-Commodore, Capt. Hastings, R.N.; Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. Denison; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. Gershom Stewart; Official Measurer, Mr. C. H. Gale; Unofficial members, Messrs. J. Hastings, H. E. Pollock, and A. Bannerman.

Protest Committee:—The Commodore, the Vice-Commodore, Capt. W. H. Taylor, R.N.; Capt. J. Rogers, R.N.

Deputy Measurers:—Capt. Rogers, R.N.; Mr. A. Denison.

Starting Officer:—Capt. Rogers, R.N.

The times for starting the classes in the Club races were fixed, for the A class 1.15 p.m., B class 1.30 p.m. Date of opening cruise, October 30th. Date of first Club race, Nov. 6th.

RIFLE MATCH.

HONGKONG RIFLE ASSOCIATION

V. KING'S OWN.

This match, fired on Saturday, 13th Aug. resulted in a victory for the Regiment by 36 points. The following are the scores:—

THE KING'S OWN REGIMENT.

	200	500	600	Total.
yards.	yards.	yards.		
Lieut. Corpl. Cornfield	32	34	31	97
Sergt. Springham	30	29	33	92
Corpl. Cosgrove	31	29	29	89
Clr. Sergt. Heap	33	30	25	88
Sergt. Creedon	29	31	28	88
Sergt. Lees	29	33	25	87
Capt. Hibbert	31	32	19	82
Sergt. Bacon	33	25	23	81
Private Thornton	32	29	14	75

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THE RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

	200	500	600	Total.
yards.	yards.	yards.		
Mr. McLennan	32	34	29	95
Mr. Marshall	30	29	28	87
Mr. Smyth	30	29	27	86
Sergt. Bowery, R.E.	30	34	21	85
Mr. A. H. Skelton	28	28	29	85
Mr. W. Macdonald	29	28	22	79
Corpl. Leadingham	27	22	29	78
Corpl. Hills, R.E.	25	32	18	75
Sergt.-Mjr. Wallace	26	25	24	75

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CORRESPONDENCE

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

HOW TO STRENGTHEN CHINA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—The British Government has declared its policy of protecting the Chinese Empire against aggression or disintegration. Doubtless their intentions are most laudable but to the thoughtful student of evolution they seem to be by their actions precipitating the entire break up of that failing relic of past grandeur, instead of imparting new life to it. Trees which outgrow their strength are pruned to renew their vigour, and China requires to be pruned of all such provinces as are peopled by diverse races, speaking a different tongue from that spoken in the Yangtze Valley and the valley of the Yellow River.

OLD CHINA HAND.

Hongkong, 16th August, 1898.

VACATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—Referring to the Attorney-General's comment at the last Council meeting on the necessity of vacations, and remembering Dr. Cantlie's injunction to the public on his departure from our shores, it is a matter of great surprise that the hard-working mercantile community of Hongkong can go on year after year in this trying climate without a day's holiday except on sick leave and yet seem to preserve their vitality and health. Will this abuse tell in time?—Yours truly,

A QUILL DRIVER.

Hongkong, 17th August, 1898.

THE PEACE OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—The solution given by the Cabinet of Washington to the question of the Philippine Islands is very strange and from all points of view dangerous. The United States Government cannot doubt that the Philippine people, when they stretched their arms towards them on asking their protection, trusted them for their future happiness with all the loyalty of a people tyrannized over for more than three centuries; and now to conclude a treaty of peace giving the Spaniards a right to interfere in the future destiny of the Philippine Islands is to perpetuate in that fine Archipelago war and desolation.

The cruelties committed by the Spaniards in the Philippines have for ever condemned from that country the name of Spain, her history, and even her memory, so much so that the actual war is not one of race, nor a merely political war; it is one originating from the terror and dread which is produced there by everything Spanish. It is the national feeling of a people vexed under all sorts of tyranny and cruelty, which now reveals itself and overthrows such an awful politico-social condition.

All the repugnant scenes which are related by Tacitus in the pages of his bloody history are pale and light in comparison with the cruelties committed by Spaniards in the Philippine Archipelago. For this reason any relations between Spain and the Philippine Islands are impossible; it would be to perpetuate a bloody war without quarter.

We believe that Spain in her own interests ought to renounce for ever any interference with the Philippine Islands, for she will never be able to rule peacefully over them as long as a single native of those Islands breathes and lives there. The whole country is risen up against the Spanish sovereignty, and if it is true that only the inhabitants of Luzon and some other Islands have taken up arms, it is not less certain that those that have not yet actually risen in arms have done so morally and that they would rush on to the battle-field as soon as a warlike trumpet should sound in their respective lands, however weak the sound.

This is the case in the Visayas Islands and all the remainder of the Archipelago; if they have not risen up still in fact they would do as soon as they thought they were to be again subdued and ruled by Spaniards.

The international policy which at the present moment intervenes in the politics of the Philippines should consider that the watchword of the Philippine insurrection is "Rather death than Spaniards," and this watchword they will defend with all the ardour of a people who have for so long been subjected to ill-treatment and injustice.

The Philippine people at the present moment desire only independence under North American protection, or annexation of the Philippine Islands by that Republic.

LOS FILIPINOS.

Hongkong, 17th August, 1898.

THE GOVERNMENT'S WILFUL WASTE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

DEAR SIR,—Anyone who will take the trouble to walk along the Praya from east to west of the colony this morning will find a number of wrecks of night soil boats. This happens every typhoon. While Chinese owned junks are promptly removed to a place of safety these

boats, which cost several hundred dollars each, are left alongside the jetties to weather it out if they can and poison the inhabitants living in the vicinity meanwhile. Sometimes they escape with more or less damage; often they become total wrecks, when their contents are spread over the water to befoul the harbour. Every one of the wrecks visible to-day could have been avoided had it been anyone's duty to remove the boats yesterday. If the Government cannot spare any of their own launches for this purpose, \$5 paid to a Chinese owned towboat would have saved each of these soil boats which have been wilfully thrown away.—Yours, &c.,

ECONOMY.

Hongkong, 18th August, 1898.

THE NEW BALMORAL GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR—Living at an outpost I was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting held recently by the above Company; but I have now received a printed report of the same, and would ask you to kindly allow me to offer a few comments and suggestions upon this highly interesting and very suggestive document. The first item which calls for notice is the paragraph in which we are told that the Company went to great trouble and expense in shifting the plant to the mine. But why in the name of all that is rational, reasonable, practical, and business-like, did they do so before they were sure of having discovered gold? What would have been easier than to have first tried and proved those portions of the mine supposed to contain gold, and then to have shifted the plant if necessary?

Then again it is noticeable that the capital advanced in the mine is just covered by the value of the plant if anyone could be found to take it over, but which is otherwise worthless! But who would be likely to take it over, except perhaps the owners of the adjoining property? and then I suppose they would want the mine with it!

The third point which I would touch upon is with regard to the two shafts which the expert found flooded, but was told that "there was nothing in them." Possibly and probably not. But would it not be as well to make sure of this before throwing up the sponge? In short, it seems to me that it would be a highly foolish proceeding on the part of the shareholders should they decide to give up everything and to abandon all further effort after the expenditure of so much time, labour, and expense, to the end, possibly, that others may carry it on to a successful issue.

I would suggest that a call of 10 per cent. or 20 per cent. be made and the work be gone on with at our risk, and not abandoned until upon further development it is found that the mine is utterly worthless, and that there is not the slightest hope of ultimate success—which at present there is.—I remain, &c., yours truly,

A SHAREHOLDER.

Canton, 17th August, 1898.

THE WOOSUNG RAILWAY.

Shanghai, 8th August.

An unofficial trial trip from Shanghai to Woosung was arranged by Mr. Hildebrand, the Engineer-in-charge, to take place on Saturday afternoon, to which a limited number of foreigners and Chinese were invited. For convenience's sake the train, consisting of a Brook's tank engine and four third-class carriages, was drawn up at the spot where the old Railway Road crosses the line, about 200 yards from the Shanghai station. Here every coign of vantage was taken possession of by wondering natives, who were watching what was to them a novel and astounding means of locomotion. At 4.09 p.m. a start was made, and in a few minutes the Rifle Range station was reached, when the train stopped for a short time. A similar stoppage was made at Kiangwan station, up to which point the train had proceeded only at a moderate rate of speed; but this was greatly accelerated between Kiangwan and Woosung, the latter station being reached at 4.34 o'clock, so that the entire journey was accomplished in 25 minutes.

A stay of over half-an-hour was made at Woosung, the passengers employing the time in visiting the new pier and pontoon right opposite the station or in proceeding a short distance up the line to the fine and substantially built engine house. Here were seen the other two Brook's tank engines that were lately imported from the United States by the American Trading Co., but it was certainly a matter of surprise to find the importers' name in full in brass letterings on each engine, both in Roman and Chinese characters.

One carriage was left behind at Woosung as three were found sufficient to accommodate the passengers, and the return was made without stoppage in 17½ minutes, the round trip having occupied an hour and a-half in all.

The line has been well and solidly built and is very creditable to all engaged upon it. The stations are handsome and substantial structures, though every economy has been exercised in their erection. Secure foundations for the various iron bridges on the line were not obtained without considerable care and trouble, but it is a source of gratification to Mr. Hildebrand and his assistants that all the bridges have stood well the severe tests to which they have recently been submitted, so that they can confidently be pronounced safe and perfect. As the line has only just been ballasted the trains will not be run at a high rate of speed until the roadway has settled down, but yet the trip to Woosung, with two stoppages, will be made in twenty minutes, and as the distance is 9½ miles this may be considered a very fair rate of speed, vastly exceeding that of the Japan lines. If required, trains can be run at 45 miles an hour, but there is no necessity for such a high rate of speed.

For the trip on Saturday third-class carriages had to be used, as the first and second-class carriages are only now in course of being landed, but they will be ready for the official opening of the line, which has been fixed for the 1st day of the 7th moon (August 17th). The iron sleepers with which the line is laid are a good innovation, as they outlast wooden sleepers by many years, and yet cost only a trifle more. The American tank engines do their work very well, and are no doubt admirably suited for a short line like this.

Yesterday afternoon H.E. Sheng, Director-General of the Imperial Railway Department, inspected the line in his official capacity, a special train leaving Shanghai about four o'clock in the afternoon and returning about half-past five. Both the outward and return journeys were made in quick time and with perfect smoothness. There were present in the car specially reserved for the purpose Mr. Chu Pao-fei, one of the managing directors, and Mr. Wang Kai-kah, Secretary of the Imperial Chinese Railway Administration, Mr. E. F. Alford, Mr. R. Inglis, Mr. Landale, and Mr. Tong Kidson of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Company, Mr. Smith of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Morrison, Mr. Tsai Erh-yuen and Mr. Weng Yin-chen (managers of the Shanghai-Woosung Railway), and Mr. P. Hildebrand, the able engineer who has had charge of the construction of the line. In addition there were a number of ladies and children and also a large gathering of influential Chinese.—*N.C. Daily News.*

BUREAU OF CONTROL FOR RAILWAYS AND MINES.

The following Imperial Edict, translated by the *N. C. Daily News*, establishing a Railway and Mining Bureau for the Empire, is our contemporary understands, the outcome of the work that Mr. Pritchard-Morgan, M.P., has been doing at Peking, and the representations that he has made to the high authorities:—

IMPERIAL EDICT OF 2ND AUGUST.

Railways and Mines are now-a-days the most important enterprises in this Empire. We have already had the Tientsin-Shanhaikuan and the Tientsin-Peking Railways built and in regular working order for some time past, while steps are now being taken for raising funds to build the Shanhaikuan extension to the Taling River (Newchwang and vicinity). As for the Canton-Hankow and Hankow-Peking lines, full control had been granted the Head Commercial Company to find ways and means for the construction of these railway lines and

matters appear to be now taking definite shape in this connection. Then as to mines we have the Kaiping Colliery and the Muhô (Amur) Gold mines as the most successful, so far, amongst the many mining enterprises embarked upon, and we have already further commanded those in control to seize every opportunity to extend the works of the two mines above noted. We are, however, apprehensive, in view of the number of provinces in the Empire and the various conditions of men who will attempt to open mines of all sorts in the future, that a diversity of methods and ensuing confusion will be the result, which would of course be detrimental to the principal object we have of getting the fullest advantages obtainable out of each and every undertaking begun in this direction. It is therefore highly important that there should be a centre of control to direct, under a single system, the working and exploitation of mines and railways in the Empire, and we hereby command that a Bureau of Control for Railways and Mines be established in Peking, to the Chief Commissionerships of which we now specially appoint two Ministers of the Tsungli Yamen, namely, Wang Wen-shao and Chang Yin-huan. The said Chief Commissioners shall, from henceforth, have special control over the opening of mines and construction of railways throughout the Empire, and Companies formed for the above purposes will in future be required to apply to the said Commissioners for permission and guidance in their operations.

THE FRENCH RAILWAY IN YUNNA.

We translate the following from *La Semaine Coloniale* (Saigon):—

The commission sent to Yunnan to make the survey for the railway from Mengtzu to Yunnan has completed its task, at least so far as work along the route is concerned, and the members are now (15th June) at the provincial capital. The commission is composed of M. Guillemot, civil engineer, president; Dr. Delay, Captain Bonruguon; M. Leclère, mining engineer; M. Kerler, conductor of roads and bridges; and Messrs. Surcouff and Boer. M. Bélaré, the representative of a French Company for the exploitation of the mines of Yunnan, is attached to the commission. From Mengtzu to Yunnan the distance is 260 kilometres (161 miles) with a variation in level of about 550 metres (1,800 ft.) Throughout the whole length of the line there is only one great difficulty. Between Kwang-i and Tonghai, a distance of five kilometres (three miles) there is a difference of level of 500 metres (1,640 ft.) Will it be necessary to cut a tunnel or to make a zigzag? I hope that to the right or the left a valley may be discovered through which the line may be carried more easily. The members of the commission propose to continue their survey, if possible, to the Szechuen boundary.

THE WRECK OF THE "AMARAPOORA."

FINDING OF THE COURT: MASTER'S CERTIFICATE SUSPENDED.

The following is the finding of the Naval Court held at Shanghai to consider the circumstances surrounding the stranding of the *Amarapoor*.

Finding and order of a Naval Court held at H. B. M. Consulate-General at Shanghai on the 4th, 5th and 9th days of August, 1898, to investigate the circumstances attending the wreck of the British Steamship *Amarapoor* of London, official number 71,667, when on a voyage from Yokohama to Taku, and the cause of such wreck, and to inquire into the conduct of the master, certificated first mate, and the crew of the said vessel. The *Amarapoor* was a steam vessel, schooner-rigged of 1,619 tons registered tonnage, official No. 71,667, built at Greenock in 1874 and belonging to the port of London. It appears from the evidence given before the Court that she sailed from Yokohama, on or about the 30th of April, 1898, bound for Taku Bar via Moji with a cargo of sleepers and a crew of 34 hands all told, and no passengers. The ship left Moji for her destination at about 3.30 p.m., on the 4th of May, 1898.

On sailing from Moji the ship was in charge of a pilot who left at 5.20 p.m. the same day off

Rokure Island. At 6.50 p.m. on the 5th of May, 1898, Flower Island bore E.S.E. At 11 p.m. the same day a fog set in, the weather having been fine up to this time. The ship was steaming at half speed from the time the fog came on till 0.45 a.m. on the 6th of May when the engines were put on at full speed. The course from Flower Island up to this time seems to have been west and at 1.10 a.m. was altered to north-west by north. From 1.50 a.m. to 6.50 a.m. the engines were eased on account of dense fog. From 7.30 a.m. to 1.05 p.m. the engines were going easy—dense fog again at 6.50 p.m. course was altered to north. From 1.05 p.m. until the ship grounded at 0.40 a.m. on the 7th of May, the weather appears to have been thick with dense fog at intervals and during that time the engines do not appear to have been eased. At 0.40 a.m. on the 7th of May, 1898, the ship took the ground on the south-west extremity of the South-east Promontory of Shantung when the engines were stopped.

The Court having regard to the circumstances above stated, finds as follows:—That the British steamship *Amarapoor* having left Moji at about 3.30 p.m. on the 4th of May, 1898, stranded on the South-east Promontory of Shantung at about 0.40 a.m. on the 7th of May, 1898. That from Moji to Flower Island the ship was navigated in a proper manner. From Flower Island to the coast of China the ship was navigated carelessly. The master not knowing the China coast allowed nothing for the tides, the set of which he should have made himself acquainted with. In this case the spring tides were setting strongly to the westward on both coasts. If the lead was used at all, of which there is very little evidence, it was used in a manner that could have been of no possible use in checking the position of the ship. Had the lead been used it must have given ample warning of the ship's proximity to land. At the time of grounding the master should have known that he must be in the near vicinity of the China coast and taken special precautions, yet although there was a thick fog the engines were kept at full speed and were actually running at that speed when the ship struck. In taking a departure from an echo of his own steam whistle which he believed to come from Ross Island which was never sighted the master navigated his ship in a reckless manner. The master and officer of the watch were both in the chart house shortly before the ship took the ground, leaving an A.B. on the upper bridge. It is in evidence that the A.B. on the fore-castle on the look-out reported a fog signal on the starboard bow and it was again heard from the bridge by the A.B. left in charge who answered the same with a blast of the whistle. Had the master been on the bridge at that time he could have stopped the engines and hauled the ship out to the eastward, and had he paid attention to the blasts of the siren he must have come to the conclusion that it was the fog signal on the South-east Promontory. Then had a cast been taken he would have been able to verify the ship's position and even at that time would probably have been able to save the ship. That upon the evidence given the vessel appears to have been well-found, sufficiently manned and seaworthy at the time of her departure from Moji. That the *Amarapoor* was not, in the opinion of the Court, provided with proper charts for the voyage on which she was engaged, the blue back chart No. 178, Eastern Passages to China and Japan, published by Messrs. Imray & Son being on too small a scale for the narrow waters she was navigating. The Court regrets that the second mate who was officer of the watch at the moment of stranding was not available as a witness, he having left the port of Shanghai before the Court was convened. The Court desires to record that William de Canliër Wetherell, first mate of the *Amarapoor*, did not give his evidence in an altogether satisfactory manner. The Court finds that the *Amarapoor* was lost through the default of the master as before described. The Court in pursuance of the powers vested in it by Sections 475 and 483 of the Merchants' Shipping Act, 1894, therefore orders:—"That a statement of the case upon which the investigation was ordered having been furnished to William Daniel Cameron before the investigation, his certificate as master, number 96,762, issued by the Board of Trade and dated 31st of May,

1870, be for the defaults aforesaid suspended for the period of six calendar months from this date, and the Court recommends that a certificate as first mate be granted to the said William Daniel Cameron for the aforesaid period. The expenses of this Court fixed at £16 1s. 10d. are approved."

Dated at Shanghai this 9th day of August, 1898, (signed) R. P. Cochran, Commander, Royal Navy, H.M.S. *Phoenix*, President of Naval Court; W. P. Ker, H.M. Acting Vice-Consul at Shanghai; C. F. Preston, master of the British steamship *Parramatta*, members.

THE NEED FOR A SURVEY OF THE UPPER YANGTZE.

A movement has been started in Chungking with the object of pressing upon the British Government the necessity of having a proper survey made of the waters of the Upper Yangtze, with a view to improving the present most inadequate means of communication between that important city and the outer world. The movement has the hearty approval of Mr. Litton, the British Consul at Chungking, and the following petition to the Marquis of Salisbury is in course of signature:—

To the Marquis of SALISBURY, K.G., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, etc., etc., etc.

We the undersigned British and American subjects resident in West China, and the Valley of the Yangtze River respectfully beg to represent to your Lordship the vexatious delays in communication between West China and the Lower Yangtze River. These constitute not only a hindrance to trade, but a danger to the lives and properties of Missionaries and others resident in the interior, on account of the difficulty of affording proper protection against rioters.

These inconveniences are primarily due to the absence of regular steam communication between the Lower River and Chungking.

It was formerly considered impossible for steamers to ascend the rapids above Ichang, but in the spring of this year, Mr. A. J. Little a British subject, succeeded in bringing a small launch up the rapids, and to Chungking.

His experience has proved the navigability of the Upper River by steam, but it has also shewed the necessity of a careful survey of the river from Ichang upwards before steam communication can become regular and profitable.

Under these circumstances we venture to submit for your Lordship's consideration the advisability, in the interest of British residents and British trade in West China, of instituting such a survey by naval experts at an early date.—We have the honour to be,

With great respect,
Your Lordship's
most obedient servants.

FIRE ON THE "BARING BROTHERS" AT KOBE.

SUPPOSED INCENDIARISM.

Kobe, 12th August.

Fire broke out at 12.30 this morning on board the American sailing ship *Baring Brothers*, lying in Kobe harbour.

The vessel is completely gutted.

There are rumours of incendiarism on the part of the crew, as the vessel was loaded and ready for departure.—*Nagasaki Press*.

RICE RIOTS AT SIKING.

Shanghai, 5th August.

A number of discontented villagers in the vicinity of Siking have for the past two or three days formed themselves into bands and raided a number of rice shops in Siking as well as the farmhouses of well-to-do farmers in the vicinity. A large quantity of grain has thus been taken by the raiders and distributed amongst their families and a sort of reign of terror has set in in Siking. In consequence of this all the shops in the place have closed their doors and trade has been suspended for the last two days. Assistance is said to have been asked from Tsai Taotai here by the mandarins at Siking.—*N. C. Daily News*.

Shanghai, 4th August.

Information was received here yesterday afternoon from the Roman Catholic Mission

station at the Feng-wan-shan Hills that a riot took place on Tuesday last at Naizee, a village near the Hills, largely inhabited by native Christians. About 1,000 men marched in a body and attacked a Christian family who were believed to have a large quantity of rice stored up. The attack was quite unexpected and so far as we can learn was made upon innocent persons. Several were injured but no lives were lost.

The Roman Catholic chapel was burnt down to the ground and the Native Christians had to flee for their lives. The cause of the outbreak is traceable not to hostility to Christianity but against the hoarding of rice with the object of enhancing the price.

The chapel was largely built from votive offerings and was only used occasionally, there being no resident priest.—*Mercury*.

Shanghai, 6th August.

It appears that the rice disturbances at Siking and Chipaochen reported in these columns yesterday were in a measure connected with each other, the rice godown of the miserly farmer at Chipaochen having been raided by a band of hungry rustics from Pootung had crossed the river to join the Siking rioters, having been shown the way by the victims' fellow townsmen. In the compound of the pilfered farmer was a private chapel, this man being a Roman Catholic, the chapel being used by his family and other families in the vicinity. In the riot five or six rooms attached to the chapel in question were plundered and broken down. It is stated that a short time ago when the local authorities at Sungkiang, within whose jurisdiction belong both Siking and Chipaochen, notified the various villages outside Sungkiang that rice at cost price was now ready to be sold to whoever desired to buy the grain, the headmen of Siking and Chipaochen amongst whom it seems was the plundered farmer, declared to the district magistrate of Louhsien that there was no necessity of selling rice at cost price and therefore they refused the privilege on behalf of their townships, expecting doubtless to force the villagers to buy their rice. This so enraged the people round about who, by the way, are cotton cultivators and therefore depend upon imports for their rice, that a resolution was taken to take away the rice stored up by their headmen and then apply to Sungkiang for the purchase of rice at cost price afterwards. This first part of the programme was adhered to, causing the rice shops, etc., at Siking to close their doors, but as is usual in mob riots the programme was exceeded, resulting in the destruction of the private chapel above noted.—*N. C. Daily News*.

TYPHOON IN FORMOSA.

GREAT LOSS OF LIFE AND SERIOUS DAMAGE.

Taipeh, 8th August.

An unprecedented gale with heavy rainfall has been experienced here, lasting from Saturday morning to Sunday night. This caused the river Tamsui to overflow, and the greater part of the city of Taipeh has been submerged. About a thousand houses collapsed, and many persons were killed. The houses damaged, boats wrecked, and people injured in some way or other are almost innumerable. The water subsided this morning and the wind dropped. Serious damage has been done to property outside the city of Taipeh.

Tokyo, 9th August.

A telegram of the 7th inst. from the Taipeh branch of the Formosan Trading Company says:—

A disastrous inundation has been experienced here, and a large number of people have been either killed or injured.

Nothing is known about the damage done in other places, as railway services and telegraphs have been interrupted.—*Kobe Chronicle*.

The *Soo Pao* says that the recent steps towards progress made by the Emperor were all adopted on the strong recommendation of Mr. Kang Yu Wei, who has been ordered to return to Shanghai to manage the *Chinese Progress*, now altered to *Chang Yen Pao* instead of *Shih Wu Pao*, signifying that it will point out the truth in representing faults and deficits.—*Mercury*.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]

The Kwangsi rebels have not been quite subdued, though they have been driven from all the principal cities which they seized during the first outbreak of the rebellion. They have now divided themselves into small bands to make attacks on the villages, and a number have suffered more or less from their ravages. Complaint after complaint has been made to the local authorities coupled with requests for protection, but the authorities, finding it difficult enough to protect themselves from the rebels, can do nothing for them. The high officials, thinking that the rebellion is quite at an end, take no notice of the remaining rebels, who might at any moment become as formidable as ever. The Canton soldiers despatched thither, being improperly paid, are staying in the district of Paklau and refuse to take any further steps to cope with the rebels, saying that no pay no work is their rule. At present only the native lukongs who are paid by the merchants and inhabitants are willing to go forward to oppose the rebels. On the 19th inst. several hundreds of rebels made an attack on the place named Sz-oi-hum, in the district of Pingnam, and as the place had no defence whatever, they were able to commit all descriptions of crimes and to abstract all the valuables from the shops and family houses. On the 11th instant over a thousand attacked Tawongkong, which is the centre of trade in Chamchow prefecture. No resistance being offered, the rebels carried away not only the money, but also the valuable goods. The Prefect of Chamchow sent to Wuchow for assistance, but the request was not answered, as the force in Wuchow was scarcely sufficient for its own protection and the Canton soldiers not being properly provided for would not obey orders. Business in most of the places where trade is usually very large is reported to be still at a standstill.

The Viceroy of Canton has again memorialised the Throne to be allowed to resign his post. The Viceroy sent in his resignation sometime ago on account of illness, but the request was refused and only several months' leave granted. It is reported that His Excellency has had a relapse and has made up his mind to return to his home in Hunan province.

A merchant, name unknown, has petitioned the Government to be allowed to open a coal mine at a place near Pakhoi, which, he says, he has lately discovered. On the 15th instant a weiyuen and a mineralogist were conveyed by the gunboat *Fou-Po* to the said place to examine the site.

The Viceroy has memorialised the Peking Government to be allowed to enlist two thousand five hundred more soldiers for the protection of Kwangtung. He says that a good number of soldiers were disbanded after the China-Japan war by the order of the Peking Government and that the present force is not sufficient to keep the province in peace, as rebellions are so common at present.

It is reported that the superintendent of Customs, named Chong Shan, is expected to arrive in Canton in a few days. The officials have made every preparation for His Excellency's reception.

HONGKONG.

H.M.S. *Powerful* arrived on Saturday morning from Japan.

From Australian papers we learn that the steamer *Taiyuan* was towed into Melbourne recently with her shaft broken.

Mr. W. E. Crowe, Government Analyst, who has been home on leave, returned on 15th August by the N. Y. K. steamer *Sado Maru*.

The sale of inland lot 1,413, etc., advertised to take place on 17th Aug. at the offices of Messrs. Hughes & Hough, has been postponed indefinitely.

The Singapore Secretary of the Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Limited, has received the following telegram from Raub, dated 9th August:—"Rough cleaning up of battery yielded 3,200 oz. amalgam, estimated quantity of stone crushed being 1,400 tons." At a rough estimate of 37 per cent. of gold in the amalgam this would give 1,184 ounces of gold for the month's work, out of 1,400 tons stone.

The maximum temperature last month was 88.7, on the 18th, and the minimum 76.3, on the 30th, the mean for the month being 81.7. The rainfall amounted to 7.055 inches.

H.M.S. *Hermione* arrived on 14th Aug. from Singapore via Bangkok. She reports having encountered a typhoon, in which the ship behaved splendidly. H.M.S. *Peacock* also arrived on the same day from Labuan.

Mr. F. J. Haver Droeze, Consul-General for the Netherlands, informs us that the quarantine regulations in Netherlands India against arrivals from Hongkong and the prohibition of importation of certain articles have been repealed.

H.M.S. *Blenheim* arrived from England on Thursday afternoon. While entering the harbour, almost at low water, she took the ground on the four-fathom patch off North Point, but floated off with the rising tide shortly before seven o'clock, having sustained no damage.

A few weeks ago some commotion was caused by the appearance of a shark near the Canton Wharf and its snapping up a fish which had fallen from the Canton steamer into the water. On Saturday the shark was seen again in the same locality. An attempt was made to catch it, but owing to the bait being improperly set it was unsuccessful.

Captain Eldridge, of the Chinese revenue cruiser *Kai Pan*, informs us that he left the *Wingfoo* in Yulinkan Harbour (South Coast of Hainan Island) on the 7th August at 5 a.m. Captain Eldridge thinks she was to start again that morning for Manila, but as the *Kai Pan* left before daylight he could not tell for certain. All on board of her were well. She had gone in to Yulinkan for shelter during the bad weather, having made two or three attempts to get across.

Tuesday was one of the most sultry days experienced this summer, and the heat continued well into the night, but in the early morning a heavy thunderstorm broke over the colony, accompanied by a considerable fall in the temperature, and afterwards the wind continued gusty. At twenty-minutes to seven on Wednesday morning the black South cone was hoisted. The weather report dated 10.25 stated that the typhoon appeared to be situated about two hundred miles to the S.S.E. of Hongkong, moving W.N.W. Another notice issued at 3 p.m. stated that the typhoon appeared to be moving north-east and that the gale would probably be severe from the east. The weather all day on Wednesday was squally and a high sea was running in the harbour, which brought a few of the small craft to grief. The Kowloon ferry launches ran to East Point instead of Pedder's Wharf and about sundown the service was suspended.

Mr. Carl Georg, the manager of the Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mines, Mount Macdonald, New South Wales, writes us that he met the other day an American metallurgist of the name of Middleton, whose father was formerly in business in Shanghai. Mr. Georg says they fell of course to talking of the Far East, and Mr. Middleton asked him whether he ever held an interest in the famous Sheridan Mines, which he knew had been sold as no good. Mr. Middleton had been in Denver often and had been all over the mines, and his information was as follows:—The Tomboy Mine, part of the property, was sold for \$35,000 to the Exploration Co., London (Rothschild's enterprise) and yielded in 1895, the year that Mr. Middleton was there, at the rate of \$75,000 to \$78,000 (gold) profit per month. The Sheridan Mine was bought by the Smugglers Union Co. and when Mr. Middleton saw the mine they were driving a tunnel on a vein from 8 feet to 16 feet wide, taking it out 8 feet high, and it yielded 1 oz of gold per ton in the Huntingdon mill, besides large concentrates. They were treating the old dump over again and had built a special tramway for this purpose, and it paid them well. The foregoing, adds Mr. Georg, "is probably one of the many chapters in the book of companies floated and owned in the East and a proof of what splendid properties have been held in China, but it beats me how shareholders let everything go to the dogs before they interfere, and then only when all belief in the show has gone."

We hear that intimation has been received on H.M.S. *Barfleur* that the paying off has been postponed. Orders have also been received that the *Blenheim*, which has on board the crew that was to be transferred to the *Barfleur*, is to be held in readiness for service. This is in connection with the disturbed state of affairs in the North.

On 17th August a couple of lots of Crown land were sold by public auction. One of the lots contains 8,896 square feet and is situated in Kennedy Road north of the Union Church. The annual rent is \$68 and the upset price was \$1,334. The other lot is in the same locality and comprises 15,234 square feet; annual rent \$114, upset price \$2,285. The sums fetched were \$1,709 and \$3,828, Mr. A. C. Gutierrez being the purchaser in each case. On Monday afternoon a lot measuring 23,100 square feet and west of the market at Hung Hom was sold for \$5,800, being \$25 above the upset price. The annual rent is \$162.

H. A. Pape and H. Anderson, chief officer and chief engineer of the Norwegian steamer *Frejr*, appeared before Commander Hastings at the Magistracy on 17th August to answer a charge of being drunk and disorderly and refusing to pay 10 cents vehicle fare. P.C. Laycock said that at eleven o'clock the previous night he was on duty at Pedder's Wharf when defendants came up in rickshas. They were both drunk and refused to pay their ricksha hire and made a disturbance. Witness arrested them both. On the way to the station first defendant became very violent, and witness had to get assistance to lock him up. The ricksha coolie also gave evidence, and defendants were each fined \$12 and ordered to pay \$3 compensation to each ricksha coolie.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The German man-of-war *Deutschland*, with Prince Henry on board, left Fusan on the 5th August for Vladivostok.

The Russian cruiser *Rossia*, with Prince Cyril Vladimir on board, left Nagasaki on the evening of the 6th August for Port Arthur.

The son of Mr. H. C. Manning, Mrs. Scott, and P. C. Richardson, all of whom were recently bitten by a dog in Hongkew, left Shanghai for the Pasteur Institute at Nagasaki on the 6th August.

An agitation is under weigh among the deck officers of the local steamers for an increase of pay, the petition to their employers being that they shall be paid entirely in sterling, instead of partly as at present, also that the rate of pay be increased. If the companies grant the petition, chief officers will apparently receive about forty dollars a month more than they do at present.—*Union*.

Among the domestic improvements which the Shanghai Municipal Council is making is a laundry. This consists of a number of buildings on the Old Rifle Range and any washermen who are willing to obey certain regulations may use the houses, rent and water free. The Shanghai community, desirous of having their clothing kept from Chinese abominations, should patronise those washermen who will use the Municipal washhouses.—*Union*.

The late Mr. A. P. Happer, of Newchwang, who died of hydrophobia, wished the particulars of his case published, and they are accordingly given in the Customs Medical Report of Dr. De Burgh Daly. Mr. Happer was on the 17th December, 1896, bitten in the finger by his own dog. At Dr. Daly's request the patient immediately started for Saigon. Communication in winter is slow and the distance long and 23 days had elapsed before he could be put under treatment. 18 inoculations were made and the patient returned, apparently in good health, on the 24th February. On the 2nd July, 1897, 217 days after the bite, the first premonitory symptoms were experienced, and these continued with increased violence till the 27th when he died. Dr. Daly describes the case as a "wonderful example to all, inasmuch as he met this dread disease, knowing full well what it entailed, with marvellous courage and calmness." He the more particularly wished it brought to notice, in order, if possible, to save others from a like fate by the establishment of a Pasteur Institute at Shanghai, as it was to the unavoidable delay, and the long period of incubation afforded that he attributed his illness.

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 8th August says:—Director Sheng having received urgent instructions from Viceroy Jung Lu at Tientsin to bring with him all the documents relating to the so-called Belgian loan, was unable to start for the North at the time he expected last week, but will probably be able to do so some time this week. We hear that H. E. Sheng will take a large portion of his personal staff with him, especially those who have had a foreign education, and this appears to foreshadow a rather prolonged stay at Tientsin.

Investigations made by the Bank of Japan into the prices of forty of the chief staples of Japan (not including rice) show distinctly that prices during last month declined considerably. Taking 100 as the average in 1887, the returns show that the average price of the forty staples was in June 1897, 159; in June this year, 174; but last month the average price declined to 168. This is the lowest average for the present year. Prices were highest, according to the returns, in April, when the average was 179, since when there has been a gradual decline.—*Hilgo News*.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

SHANGHAI, 13th August.—(From Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co.'s Circular.)—From Hankow reports are to the effect that a steady Russian demand continues at firm prices. The lowest quotation for whole leaf Tea was 11s. 9½ a picul, second crop Oanfas 11s. 14 to 16 a picul. The second crop is expected to reach 14,000 half-chests, and the third according to native estimates will probably be 40,000 to 50,000 half-chests. Black Tea.—Business here has been confined to a few parcels of Keemun, Ningchow, and Hohow district Teas which show no change in prices. Very little Hankow Tea is on offer here, and it would be impossible to buy any weight of Tea under 11s. 18 a picul.

Settlements reported are:—

Ningchow	3,290 ½-chests at 11s. 18 to 27½ picul.
Keemun	1,113 " " 18½ to 26 "
Wenchow	1,135 " " 17½ to 20 "

5,535 ½-chests.

Stock, 17,494 ½-chests.

Green Teas.—This is the third consecutive season in which the Export to the United States and Canada for the first two months has been abnormally small, and in none of those years has the small Export enhanced the prices in the consuming countries. It is fair to argue from this that the trade in Pingsueys, which are the only Teas shipped in quantity in June and July, has been virtually lost. It was doubtless killed by the "trash," which was shipped as Tea for many years and it richly deserved its fate. It is to be regretted, however, that the more wholesome descriptions of Green Tea did not take its place. As it is, many years will probably be wanted to recover lost ground, even if it is ever recovered, and the only chance is to continue sending only Teas of such sterling quality as this season's yield. Our market is dead, except for a few lines which are required for special orders. Country Teas.—For some days after the date of our last respects there was an apparent steadiness in our market and tea-men began to refuse fair offers anticipating a demand; this was strengthened by the unusual delay in the arrival of Teas from the Country, owing to the want of water in the waterways. On the 8th, however, Teas began to arrive freely, especially from the Moyune districts, and the hollowiness of the demand showed itself. Very few chops were placed on the first day, and the policy of buyers since has been very conservative. Prices are fairly steady, and the great difference between alleged cost and buyers' ideas of value will probably make tea-men unwilling sellers for some time to come. Moyunes.—We consider the quality of the crop as fully average, and it compares better with the Tienkais than was the case last season. Although most of the liquors darken quickly the Teas are for the most part well burnt and of good flavour, which are signs of good condition. Tienkais.—No change of importance has taken place in these, though the inferior chops now on the market are much better value than early settlements of Fychows. Fychows.—Many late arrivals are somewhat coarse in water, but no very rank drawing Teas have yet come to hand. Local Packs.—Very little doing and very few desirable Teas left on offer. Hysons, &c.—The eccentricities of one buyer have upset the market for "choices" Hysons and prices are most irregular. Prices for Moyune have reached 11s. 65/67 a picul and Tienkais up to 11s.

58 a picul. The market is quiet otherwise. Choicest Sow-meas have been wanted and many parcels have changed hands at Tls. 57/2. Settlements reported are:—

	4-chts.	28 to 33 a picul.
Pingsuey	3,619 at Tls.	28 to 33 a picul.
Moyune	5,796 "	23 to 43 "
Tienkai	8,500 "	21 to 32 "
Fychow	1,922 "	18 to 23 "
Local packed	1,813 "	18 to 23 "

[Lines Tls. 25 1/30]

21,680 1/2-chts.

1898-99.

	Settlements.	Stock.
	4-chts.	4-chts.
Pingsuey	16,213	20,299
Moyune	5,941	
Tienkai	10,121	18,174
Fychow	6,005	
Local packed	10,071	3,650

Total..... 48,451

1897-98.

	Settlements.	Stock.
	4-chts.	4-chts.
Pingsuey	38,021	20,921
Moyune	12,601	
Tienkai	18,750	17,809
Fychow	6,578	
Local packed	6,971	326

Total..... 85,921

1895-96.

	Settlements.	Stock.
	4-chts.	4-chts.
Pingsuey	93,925	18,314
Moyune	17,905	
Tienkai	17,932	32,158
Fychow	8,689	
Local packed	10,441	1,943

Total..... 148,892

1895-96.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai...	3,882,526	9,599,945
Foochow	2,813,225	2,771,436
Amoy	110,774	2,278
Canton	2,253,620	2,510,129
	14,060,145	15,113,788

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99	1897-98.
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	4,569,095	4,419,422
Amoy	3,805,304	4,849,374
	8,474,399	9,268,796

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	15,101,310	15,935,528
Kobe	6,923,619	9,682,782
	22,024,929	25,596,310

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA

	1898-99	1897-98
	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow...	21,776,036	19,338,134

SILK.

CANTON, 6th August.—Tsatless.—Prices remain steady; a few sales of No. 3 are reported at \$505. Re-reels.—A few hundred bales of No. 1 Grant are said to have been settled at the rates previously ruling. A continuation of the speculative demand has prevented any decline in local rates, and some of the latest purchases, especially in fine sizes, even show an advance. From prices paid we quote: \$765 for Kwong Shun Cheong 11/13, \$740 for How King Sing 11/13, \$735 for Kwong King Chong 10/12, \$730 for Kwong King Loong 10/12, \$710 for Kum King Cheong 16/2, \$700 for How King Cheong, 13/15, \$685 for How Tai Loong 13/15, \$625 for Wai King Wo 18/22, and King Wo Cheong 18/22, \$620 for Yee Wo Cheong 18/22. Short-reels.—Have been in moderate enquiry. From prices paid we quote: \$735 for Hou King Lun 14/16, \$732 for Po King Cheong 14/16, 72 for U Hau Cheong, \$655 for Po Cheong Wo and Kum Lun Cheong 14/16. A few hundred bales of short-reel "paquetailles" 14/18, 16/20, 16/22, 21/11 are said to have been settled at \$59/50/50/30.

SHANGHAI, 18th August.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—London advices are to the effect that the market is firm, and Blue Elephants are unchanged at 10/0. The quotation for Gold Killing from Lyons is Fca. 26.50. Raw Silk.—We have had a much quieter week than the preceding one; the advance in exchange and the constant increase in tael prices asked by holders have put a stop to business for the present. Yellow Silk.—A fair amount of business has taken place, supplies are coming more freely into the market and holders are more inclined to meet buyers' views. Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, 6th August to 12th August, are: 2,560 bales White, 329 bales Yellow, and 141 bales Wild Silks. Re-reels and Filatures.—Nothing has been done for America this week, but some business in Hand Filatures has been put through for the Continent; the market for these is very strong, fully 3,000 bales have yet to be delivered of the contracts made for the American and Continental markets. Some small settlements of Steam Filatures are reported. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 533 bales to the Continent, 374 bales to America, and 35 bales to England. Wild Silks.—A small business is doing in Raws. Waste Silks.—Not very much doing this week, settlements include:—

	at Tls.
100 Curries, 60 p. c. I, 30 p. c. II, 10 p. c. III,	45
100 Curries, 2 and 3	35, 25
200 Seohuen Frisonnets (whole bales)	22

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1898-99	1897-98
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	15,789	13,355
Canton	6,291	2,968
Yokohama	1,753	415
	23,824	16,738

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1898-99	1897-98
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	715	1,486
Yokohama	1,039	386
	1,754	1,822

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 19th August.—The market is brisk and prices advancing. Quotations for Formosa are \$43.00 to \$43.50. Sales, 250 piculs.

SUGAR

HONGKONG, 19th August.—Prices are still improving. Quotations are:—

Shekloong, No. 1, White...	\$7.43 to 7.46 per picul.
do. " 2, White...	7.34 to 7.36 "
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown...	4.92 to 4.96 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.78 to 4.81 "
Swatow, No. 1, White...	7.32 to 7.35 "
do. " 2, White...	7.20 to 7.25 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown...	4.83 to 4.87 "
do. " 2, Brown...	4.63 to 4.71 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	11.25 to 11.27 "
Shekloong "	10.90 to 10.95 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per German str., *Bayern*, sailed on the 20th July. For Aden:—2 cases curios. For Genoa:—364 bales raw silk, 263 bales waste silk, 2 bales feathers, and 2 cases merchandise. For Antwerp:—115 bales rattancore, 50 bales rattan piddicks, 44 cases preserves, and 5 cases sundries. For Antwerp and/or Hamburg and/or London and/or New York:—70 bales feathers. For Amsterdam:—300 cases cassia lignea, 23 Chinaware, and 7 bales canes. For Bremen:—50 rolls matting, 11 boxes sundries, and 6 cases merchandise. For Hamburg:—1,127 packages tea, 51 bales feathers, 9 cases sundries, 5 packages curios, and 1 case silk. For London:—1 box silk.

Per steamer *Pakling*, sailed on the 2nd August. For London:—2,446 boxes tea, 245 1/2-chests tea from Amoy, 40 cases bristles, 5 cases blackwoodware, 1 case ivory brushes, and 1 package tea. For Liverpool:—40 bales rope. For Glasgow:—6 cases blackwoodware, and 2 packages tea.

Per P & O. steamer *Coromandel* sailed on the 6th August. For Manchester:—6 bales waste silk, and 1 bale punjum silk. For London:—110 bales raw silk, and 8 cases silk piece goods. For France:—35 bales raw silk, 91 bales waste silk, and 7 cases silk piece goods. For Milan:—25 bales raw silk.

Per steamer *Astoria*, sailed on the 6th Aug. For London:—2 cases gongs, 12 cases bamboo ware, 20 cases bristles, 25 packages canes, 29 cases Chinaware, 31 cases blackwoodware, 1 case cassia, 105 cases essential oil, 110 rolls matting, and 150 cases soy. For London and/or Hamburg and/or Antwerp:—50 cases bristles, and 417 bags charcoal. For London and/or Hamburg and/or Bremen:—100 cases gallnuts. For London and/or Hamburg:—16 cases goatskin-rugs, 32 cases feathers, 50 cases gallnuts. For London and/or Antwerp:—50 cases bristles. For Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For Hamburg:—1 case silks, 1 case Chinaink, 1 case gongs, 2 cases curios, 10 cases bristles, 15 packages rattanware, 20 bales galangal, 27 packages canes, 61 rolls matting, and 700 cases tea. For Amsterdam:—3 packages tea, 8 cases blackwoodware, and 16 cases Chinaware. For New York:—20 bales raw silk.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 19th August.—Bengal.—The market continued firm until towards the close, when prices weakened owing to a falling off in the demand. Current quotations are \$740 for New Patna and \$717 1/2 for New Benares.

Malwa.—There has been very little doing during the interval, and prices are about the same as when last reported. Latest figures are as under:—

New (this yr's.) \$720 with no allowance.

Old (2 1/2 yrs.) \$780 with all'ncc. of 1 1/2 cts.

" (6/7 ") \$820 " " of 1 "

" (8/9 ") \$850 " " of 1 "

Persian.—This drug has been out of favour during the past week. Rates are unaltered, closing at \$500 to \$630 for Oily, and at \$600 to \$750 for Paper-wrapped, according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	1,028 chests
Old Patna	230 "
New Benares	447 "
Old Benares	70 "
Malwa	223 "
Persian	245 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1898.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Aug. 13	742 1/2	777 1/2	717 1/2	—	720	—
Aug. 14	742 1/2	777 1/2	717 1/2	—	720	—
Aug. 15	742 1/2	777 1/2	717 1/2	—	720	—
Aug. 16	742 1/2	777 1/2	717 1/2	—	720	—
Aug. 17	74 1/2	777 1/2	717 1/2	—	720	—
Aug. 18	740	772 1/2	717 1/2	—	720	—
Aug. 19	740	772 1/2	717 1/2	—	720	—

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 19th August.—Some small parcels of superior quality have changed hands only. mediums are neglected. Stock, about 5,000 bales;

Bombay	\$16.00 to 17.00 p. pl.
Kurrachee	to " "
Bengal (New), Rangoon, and Dacca	17.00 to 19.25 "
Shanghai and Japanese ..	21.00 to 21.25 "
Tungchow and Ningpo ..	21.00 to 21.25 "
Madras (Best)	to " "
Sales: 175 bales Bengal (New), Rangoon and Dacca.	

RICE.

HONGKONG, 19th August.—The market still has a downward tendency. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.88 to 2.92
" Round, good quality	3.10 to 3.15
" Long	3.42 to 3.45
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ..	2.92 to 2.95
" Garden, " No. 1 ..	3.60 to 3.63
" White	4.35 to 4.38
" Fine Cargo	4.80 to 4.83

COALS.

HONGKONG, 19th August.—Market unchanged. No sales. Quotations are:—

Cariff	\$18.00 to 23.00 ex ship, nominal
Australian	10.00 to 11.50 ex ship, quiet
Midi Island	10.00 to 11.50 nominal
and Small	
Woj Lump	8.00 to 10.50 ex ship, quiet
Hongay Lump	12.50 to — nominal.
Hongay Dust	5.00 to — "
Briqueites	10.00 to — "

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS

HONGKONG, 19th August.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn.*—775 bales No. 10 at \$73 to \$79, 700 bales No. 12 at \$81.50 to \$85, 400 bales No. 16, at \$83 to \$91.50, 550 bales No. 20, at \$91 to \$94.50. *Japanese Yarn.*—50 bales No. 16 at \$91.150 bales No. 20 at \$91 to \$92. *White Shirtings.*—250 pieces X. 6 at \$3.85, 500 pieces X. X. X. at \$5.57, 250 pieces X. 6 at \$3.85, 250 pieces X. 7 at \$4.05, 500 pieces Ship Chop at \$4.50, 500 pieces 48 Reed at \$2.30, 500 pieces F. B. 1 at \$5.37, 250 pieces No. 3 at \$3.60, 1,000 pieces Blue Lion at \$5.35, 1,500 pieces F. B. 1 at \$5.37. *Grey Shirtings.*—250 pieces 12 lbs. Dragon at \$4.57. *T. Cloths.*—300 pieces 32 inches Mex. Dog and Vase at \$2.90, 250 pieces 32 inches Mex. Blue Dragon at \$2.87. *Drills.*—150 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$5.40, 75 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$5.40, 75 pieces 16 lbs. Large Eagle at \$5.40, 450 pieces 14 lbs. Buffalo at \$3.70.

METALS.—*Lead.*—20 tons Australia at \$8.50 Tin.—100 slabs Siam at \$44.

COTTON YARN. per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s. 68.00 to 98.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.....105.00 to 111.00
" 22 to 24.....106.00 to 112.00
" 28 to 32.....120.00 to 124.00
" 38 to 42.....130.00 to 135.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS. per piece
Grey Shirtings—6lbs. 1.75 to 1.85
7lbs. 2.00 to 2.07
8.4 lbs. 2.50 to 3.20
9 to 10 lbs. 3.40 to 4.15
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd. 2.30 to 2.50
58 to 60 " 2.75 to 3.45
64 to 66 " 3.55 to 4.40
Fine 4.35 to 7.15
Book-folds. 3.80 to 5.70
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ... 0.65 to 1.80
T. Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y. 1.55 to 1.75
7lbs. (32 "), " 1.90 to 2.15
6lbs. (32 "), Mexs. 1.70 to 1.85
7lbs. (32 "), " 2.10 to 2.80
8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.) 2.40 to 3.25
Drills, English—40 yds. 13½ to 3.75 to 5.15
14lbs. }

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 1.60 to 5.00
8lbs. }

Brocades—Dyed 3.00 to 5.00
per yard

Damasks 0.12 to 0.16

Chintzes—Assorted 0.08 to 0.14

Velvets—Black, 22 in. 0.20 to 0.45

Velveteens—18 in. 0.17½ to 0.18½
per dozen

Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk 0.45 to 0.90

WOOLLENS

Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops. 0.57½ to 1.40
German 1.15 to 1.50

Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths. 1.25 to 5.25
per piece

Long Ells—Scarlet 6.50 to 10.00

Assorted 6.60 to 10.00

Camlets—Assorted 12.50 to 32.00

Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, } 10.00 to 21.00
Assorted }

Orleans—Plain 7.00 to 8.50
per pair

Blankets—8 to 12lbs. 3.50 to 14.00

METALS

Iron—Nail Rod 3.80 to —
per picul

Square, Flat Round Bar ... 3.95 to —

Swedish Bar 5.50 to —

Small Round Rod 4.25 to —

Hoop ½ to 11½ in. 5.25 to —

Wire 15/25 8.50 to —

Old Wire Rope 1.50 to 2.50

Lead, L. B. and Hole Chop ... 8.50 to —

Australian 8.50 to —

Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/20 oz. 32.00 to —

Vivian's, 14/20 oz. 31.00 to —

Elliot's, 14/20 oz. 30.25 to —

Composition Nails 46.00 to —

Japan Copper, Slabs 32.00 to —

Tiles 30.75 to —

Tin — to —
per box.

Tin-Plates 5.93 to —
per cwt. case

Steel ½ to ¾ 5.25 to —

SUNDRIES

Quicksilver 140.00 to —
per picul

Window Glass 4.50 to —
per box

Kerosene Oil 1.87 to —
per 10-gal. cases

SHANGHAI, 13th August.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report).—The volume of business this week has not been large by any means, but still it is sufficient to show that the dealers are beginning to exert themselves a little and try to obtain command of the available stocks here. In the earlier part of the week things were very quiet; but during the past few days there has been a decided improvement in enquiry and business in most cases has only been stopped by the upward movement in exchange. While this advance in exchange has checked business at the moment, it has brought a most welcome improvement in clearances, those of American goods being quite phenomenal, but in looking into the matter it at once becomes apparent that it has been done for the benefit of the careful Celestial. It appears that a great quantity of goods were financed on the basis of a guaranteed rate of exchange, in some cases as low as 2/5, and in order to secure their profit buyers were only too pleased to secure the present rate of exchange, and pay for the goods. From some reason or another the Chefoo dealers are responsible for this movement in American goods and where they could not buy from stock they have secured goods for arrivals, but here again business has been curtailed owing to their refusing to accept the distant deliveries which the New York market can only offer. The Tientsin dealers are evidently running short of supplies of 8.4-lbs. Grey Shirtings and 61-reed White Shirts in grand actual business in most instances has only been stopped by the advance in exchange, dealers, as usual, thinking it is still going higher. From the other consuming districts there is little news of importance, each, in its own peculiar way, taking goods into consumption in a fairly satisfactory manner.

METALS, 15th August.—(From Messrs. Alex. Bielfeld & Co.'s Report).—There has been no great change in the state of the markets during the past week. Money has been very tight both from Foreign and Chinese sources, the rates of the latter fluctuating violently during the week. There seems to be no special demand for any class of material, the few orders put through being either for self-protection on the part of those who have ordered from home, or in the case of local purchases, to fill chance orders from interior. Home reports show prices there to be remaining steady, and with the small demand here, the small business transacted is easily understood. Most of the orders recorded below were for cargo already afloat and about to arrive. Business done—350 tons London and Glasgow Horse-shoes at 86s to 86½, c.i.f. 200 tons Scrap Iron at 73s. 6d., c.i.f. 50 tons do. do. at Tls. 2.05.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 19th August.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have ruled quiet with but a very small business at 204 and 205 per cent. prem. ex div. and close at 203. Nationals unchanged and with a small business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders have changed hands at \$63½ and \$63½, closing steady at the latter rate. Unions remain steady at \$215, but without business. Cantons have found small buyers at \$130. Straits and the Northern Insurances continue quiet at quotations and without business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Both Hongkong and Chinas continue dull and neglected at quotation with no sales.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao have been negotiated in small lots at \$25½ and \$25, closing quiet with sellers. Indo-Chinas have been freely offered at \$56, leading to a small business. Douglasses have changed hands at \$58. China and Manilas continue on offer at quotation without finding buyers, notwithstanding the raising of the blockade of Manila. China Mutuals without change or business.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have changed hands at \$163, \$162½, \$162, and \$161 for the settlement, closing with sellers at the last rate. Luzons have found further buyers at \$40 and are still enquired for at that rate.

MINING.—The market has been abnormally quiet and there is very little business to report. A few Punjoms changed hands at \$5½, \$5.35, and \$5½, Balmoral Preferences at 25 cents, Great Easterns at \$2.70, and Jebeus from \$4½ to \$5. Other stocks under this heading have been on offer without leading to business.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled steady with small sales at 257 and 258 per cent. prem. for cash and at 259 for settlement; some small lots have changed hands at equivalent

rates forward; market closes steady at 258. Kowloon Wharves have been enquired for in a small way and sales have been effected at \$58½, market closing with further buyers at that and with sellers at \$59. Wanchais unchanged and without business.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands continue weak and neglected, at \$67. Kowloon Lands have found small buyers at \$17½ and \$17½, closing with sellers at the former rate. Hotels have ruled quieter with sellers at \$56 cum dividend and no sales, market closing quiet at \$54 ex dividend. West Points and Humphreys continue quiet and out of the market at quotations.

COTTON MILLS.—Have all experienced a slump in the North. There is no local business to report.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands continue quiet and without business. Star Ferry Co.'s have improved to \$8½ with sales and buyers, and Electrics to \$8½. Watsons continue in demand at \$11.85 without sellers or sales. China Providents have been negotiated at \$9½. Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks—		[\$378.75, ex div. b.
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	203 % prem=
China & Japan, prf.	\$5	nominal
Do. ordinary...	\$4	nominal
Do. deferred...	\$1	£5.5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	\$8	\$17, sales & sellers
Founders Shares...	\$1	\$17, sales & sellers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	\$1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$8
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9½, sales
China Sugar	\$100	\$161, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo.....	Tls. 100	Tls. 90, sellers
Hongkong	\$70	\$45, cum call
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 90
Lacu-Kung Mow ..	Tls. 100	Tls. 90
Soychue	Tls. 500	Tls. 475
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 50
Dairy Farm Co.	\$5	\$5½
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$30
Green Island Cement...	\$10	\$28, sellers
Do. New Issue	\$5	\$17, sellers
H. & China Bakery ...	\$50	\$33
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	\$10	\$125
Hongkong Electric ...	\$10	\$8½
H. H. L. Tramways ...	\$100	\$110, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$54, ex div. sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$108, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$58½, buyers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$162, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	259 p. ct. prem. =
Insurances—		[\$448, buyers
Canton.....	\$50	\$130, sales
China Fire	\$20	\$95, sellers
China Traders'	\$25	\$63½, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$330, sellers
North-China	\$25	Tls. 180
Straits	\$20	\$9, sellers
Union	\$50	\$215, sales & sellers
Yangtze	\$60	\$130, sellers
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment...	\$50	\$67, sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$35.50
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$17½, sellers
West Point Building	\$40	\$20, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$40, buyers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fce. 500	\$105, sellers
Great E. & C'donian	\$5	\$4.10
Do. Do.	\$3½	\$60
Jebeu	\$5	\$1.40, sellers
New Balmoral	\$1	nominal
Do. Preference ...	\$1	22½cts., sellers
Oliver's Mines, A.	\$5	\$4, sellers
Do. B.	\$2½	\$3.60, cum call, sal.
Punjom	\$5	\$4, sales & sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$1.50, sales
Raub	14s. 10d.	\$36½, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$4
Steamship Co.—		
China and Manila...	\$50	\$80, sellers
China Mutual Ord...	\$10	\$9 10s., buyers
Do. Preference ...	\$10	£5 10s.
Do. Do.	\$5	£3
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$58, sales & sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$25, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$56, sellers
Star Ferry	\$7½	\$8½, sales & buyers
Tebrau Planting Co. ...	\$.	\$3, sellers
Do.	\$.	\$3, sellers
United A-bestos	\$2	\$1.40, buyers
Do.	\$0	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$41
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$1.85, buyers

J. V. Y. VERNON, broker.

SHANGHAI, 15th August.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report)—The tightness of the money market has not abated, and but a meagre business has been done, in many cases at declining rates. Banks.—Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation—Shares were placed to Hongkong at 212 per cent. premium, and exchange 73.75, and 213 per cent. premium, with exchange 73.50, each equal to about 215 per cent. premium, and exchange 73. The rate of exchange on Hongkong having declined, the market is not so strong as it was. We quote 205 per cent. premium as the closing rate, ex div. National Bank of China shares are offering in Hongkong at \$17. Marine Insurance.—No business reported. There is some enquiry for Union and China Traders shares. Straits shares are offering at \$9. Fire Insurance.—No business reported on our market. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares are wanted here at Tls. 40 and in Hongkong at \$56. Docks, Wharves & Godowns.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. were sold at Tls. 170. Shanghai Dock shares changed hands at Tls. 84. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares were sold at Tls. 115 ex div. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares are offering at Tls. 85. Industrial.—In Cotton Mill shares, Internationals were sold at Tls. 90 for cash and for 31st current, Laoukung-mows at Tls. 90, and Yah loongs at Tls. 50. China Flour Mill shares changed hands at Tls. 51. Tugs & Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares were placed at Tls. 205, Taku Tug & Lighter shares at Tls. 70, and the interim dividend of 2 per cent. just paid, and Shanghai Cargo Boat shares at Tls. 160. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 78 and Tls. 75. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares have been dropping, business having been done at Tls. 210 for October and Tls. 190 for August early in the week. Cash shares have since been done at Tls. 170, and at the same price for the 31st current, and a sale at Tls. 165 for the 31st is reported. Hall & Holtz shares were placed at \$38.50. Loans.—Shanghai Municipal 5 per cent. Debentures were sold at Tls. 90, and Shanghai Land Investment Company's 5 per cent. Debentures at Tls. 90 also, plus the accrued interest as usual.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 19th August.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11½

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand	2.43
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.47

ON GERMANY.—

On demand	1.96½
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ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand	46½
Credits, 60 days' sight	47½

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer	145
Bank, on demand	145½

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer	145
Bank, on demand	145½

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight	73
Private, 30 days' sight	73½

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand	5 % pm.
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ON MANILA.—

On demand	nom.
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ON SINGAPORE.—

On demand	½ % pm
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SOVEREIGNS Bank's Buying Rate 10.26

GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael 54.25

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 19th August.—Since our last very little business has been transacted. From Saigon to Hongkong, 14½ cents per picul is offered for small carriers, and 13½ cents per picul for large. A settlement has been effected from Saigon to one port north coast of Java at 23 cents per picul. From Bangkok to this port, the market is decidedly firmer, and 24 and 29 cents could be obtained for small steamers, prompt loading. From Newchwang to Canton,

three steamers have been taken up at 28 cents per picul (22 to 25, 00 piculs), but there is no further demand at present. Japan coal freights.—Only one steamer has been chartered from Moji to Hongkong, at \$1.85 per ton during the past week, and charterers do not appear to be anxious for further tonnage, as the stock of coal here is still very large. For Singapore \$2.50 has been paid. Sailing tonnage.—No fixtures have been reported during the past fortnight. The owners' ideas are far above what the charterers are at present disposed to pay. There are nine disengaged vessels in port, registering 13,189 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Pronto—German steamer, 719 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 27½ cents per picul.
Tamsui—British steamer, 919 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 28 cents per picul.
Hunan—British steamer, 1,158 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 28 cents per picul.
Chefoo—British steamer, 684 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 28 cents per picul.
Astrid—Norwegian steamer, 975 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.70 per ton.
Germania—German steamer, 1,775 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$1.85 per ton.
Benlomond—British steamer, 1,732 tons, Moji to Singapore, \$2.50 per ton.
Donau—German steamer, 1,201 tons, Saigon to 1 port north coast Java, 23 cents per picul.
Donau—German steamer, 1,201 tons, 2 ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 30 cents per picul.
Hinsang—British steamer, 1,536 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 21 and 25 cents per picul.
Circussian Prince—British steamer, 1,453 tons, Bangkok to Hongkong, 20 and 25 cents per picul.
Peiyang—German steamer, 953 tons, hence to Iloilo and back, \$9,000.
Donau—German steamer, 1,202 tons, hence to Mauritius and back, \$3,400 per month.
Trym—Norwegian steamer, 710 tons, monthly, 6 months, \$4,800 per month.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

FOR LONDON.—Japan (str.), *Prometheus* (str.), *Arabia* (str.), *Parramatta* (str.), *Arcadia* (str.), *Tosa Maru* (str.), *Oopack* (str.).
 FOR BREMEN.—*Preussen* (str.).
 FOR MARSEILLES.—*Tosa Maru* (str.), *Ernest Simons* (str.).
 FOR SAN FRANCISCO.—*Gaelic* (str.), *Hawthornbank*, *Astec* (str.).
 FOR VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India* (str.).
 FOR VICTORIA, B. C.—*Mogul* (str.), *Columbia* (str.).
 FOR TACOMA.—*Columbia* (str.).
 FOR NEW YORK.—*Liv* (str.), *Indrapura* (str.), *Sikh* (str.), *Prince Arthur*, *Fooking Sney*, *Crown of Germany*, *Emily F. Whitney*, *Muskoka*.
 FOR HAVRE A D HAMBURG.—*Sarnia* (str.), *Suevia* (str.), *Silesia* (str.).
 FOR AUSTRALIA.—*Ching'u* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST

MAIL.

HONGKONG.

August—

ARRIVALS.

13, Hsiping, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 13, Peiyang, German str., from Shanghai.
 13, Diomed, British str., from Foochow.
 13, Chowtai, British str., from Bangkok.
 13, Sungkiang, British str., from Cebu.
 13, Powerful, British cruiser, from Yokohama.
 13, Mongkut, British str., from Saigon.
 13, Erato, German str., from Kobe.
 13, Concord, Norwegian str., from Celebes.
 13, Wosang, British str., from Shanghai.
 14, Airie, British str., from Sydney.
 14, Centaur, British str., from Bangkok.
 14, Indus, French str., from Marseilles.
 14, Nanyang, German str., from Chefoo.
 14, Taiwan, British str., from Shanghai.
 14, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
 14, Hermione, British str., from Singapore.
 14, Peacock, British gunboat, from Labuan.
 14, Plover, British gunboat, from a cruise.
 15, Ariel, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
 15, Craigearn, British str., from Amoy.
 15, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.
 15, Taichow, British str., from Shanghai.
 15, Tritos, German str., from Saigon.
 15, Hohenzollern, German str., from Japan.
 15, Frejr, Danish str., from Hoihow.
 15, Nanyo Maru, Jap. str., from K'notzu.
 15, Paoting, British str., from Swatow.

15, Sado Maru, Jap. str., from Glasgow.
 15, Kaiserin Augusta, Ger. cr., from Manila.
 15, Bellerophon, British str., from Straits.
 15, Kashing, British str., from Hongay.
 15, Prinz Heinrich, Ger. str., from Shanghai.
 15, Renie Rickmers, Ger. ship, from Cardiff.
 16, Glaucus, British str., from Liverpool.
 16, Crown of Arragon, Brit. str., from F'chow.
 16, Taisang, British str., from Cebu.
 16, Gisela, Austrian str., from Trieste.
 16, Formosa, British str., from Coast Ports.
 16, Peiyang, German str., from Canton.
 16, Nestor, British str., from Shanghai.
 16, Kong Beng, British str., from Taiwanfoo.
 17, Rosetta, British str., from Yokohama.
 17, Benedi, British str., from Foochow.
 17, Dante, German str., from Moji.
 17, Zafiro, Amr. des. ves., from Manila.
 17, Wosang, British str., from Canton.
 17, Benlarig, British str., from London.
 17, E. F. Whitney, Brit. sh., from Shanghai.
 18, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 18, Santa Cruz, Amr. schr., from Yap.
 18, Nanyang, German str., from Canton.
 18, Blenheim, British cruiser, from Singapore.
 18, Manila, British str., from London.
 18, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
 19, Parramatta, British str., from Shanghai.
 19, Charon, British str., from Yokohama.
 19, Charon, British str., from Bangkok.
 19, Independent, German str., from Bangkok.
 19, Kaifong, British str., from Newchwang.
 19, Konora Maru, Japanese str., from Moji.
 19, Rinsei Maru, Japanese str., from Iamsui.
 19, Sutlej, British str., from Bombay.
 19, Columbia, British str., from Tacoma.
 19, Tamsui Maru, Japanese str., from Karatsu.
 19, Taiwan, British str., from Canton.
 19, Kweiyang, British str., from Canton.

August—

DEPARTURES.

13, Haichew, Chinese cruiser, for Shanghai.
 13, Coptic, British str., for San Francisco.
 13, Peiyang, German str., for Canton.
 14, Kweiyang, British str., for Canton.
 14, Sultan, British str., for Canton.
 14, Wosang, British str., for Canton.
 14, Australian, British str., for Australia.
 14, Melbourne, French str., for Europe.
 14, Taichong, German str., for Swatow.
 15, Diomed, British str., for London.
 15, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 15, Indus, French str., for Shanghai.
 15, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 15, Lyeemoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 15, Socotra, British str., for Yokohama.
 15, Nanyang, German str., for Canton.
 15, Taiwan, British str., for Canton.
 15, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 16, Ask, Danish str., for Hoihow.
 16, Taiwan Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
 16, Duchesse Anne, Fr. bk., for S. Francisco.
 16, Ancenis, British bark, for Iloilo.
 16, Activ, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
 16, Hong Leong, British str., for Amoy.
 16, Pronto, German str., for Chefoo.
 16, Hsi Ping, Chinese str., for Chefoo.
 16, Kwongsang, British str., for Iloilo.
 16, Lightning, British str., for Calcutta.
 16, Paoting, British str., for Saigon.
 16, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 16, Ariel, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 17, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Manila.
 17, Braemar, British str., for Moji, &c.
 17, Plover, H.B.M. gunboat, for a cruise.
 17, Wongkoi, British str., for Hoihow.
 17, Kamakura Maru, Jap. str., for London.
 17, Craigearn, Brit. str., for New York.
 17, Keongwai, British str., for Swatow.
 17, Prinz Heinrich, German str., for Europe.
 18, P. C. Kleo, British str., for Bangkok.
 18, Sado Maru, Japanese str., for Nagasaki.
 18, Kaiserin Augusta, German cr., for Manila.
 18, Deucalion, British str., for Sandakan.
 19, Formosa, British str., for Amoy.
 19, Erato, German str., for Hamburg.
 19, Frejr, Danish str., for Manila.
 19, Gisela, Austrian str., for Kobe.
 19, Oslo, Norwegian str., for Manila.
 19, Taichong, German str., for Bangkok.
 19, Benedi, British str., for London.
 19, Glaucus, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Nestor, British str., for London.
 19, Peiyang, German str., for Iloilo.
 19, Zafiro, Amr. des. ves., for Manila.

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